

**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PREVIEW**

# Huskers Illustrated

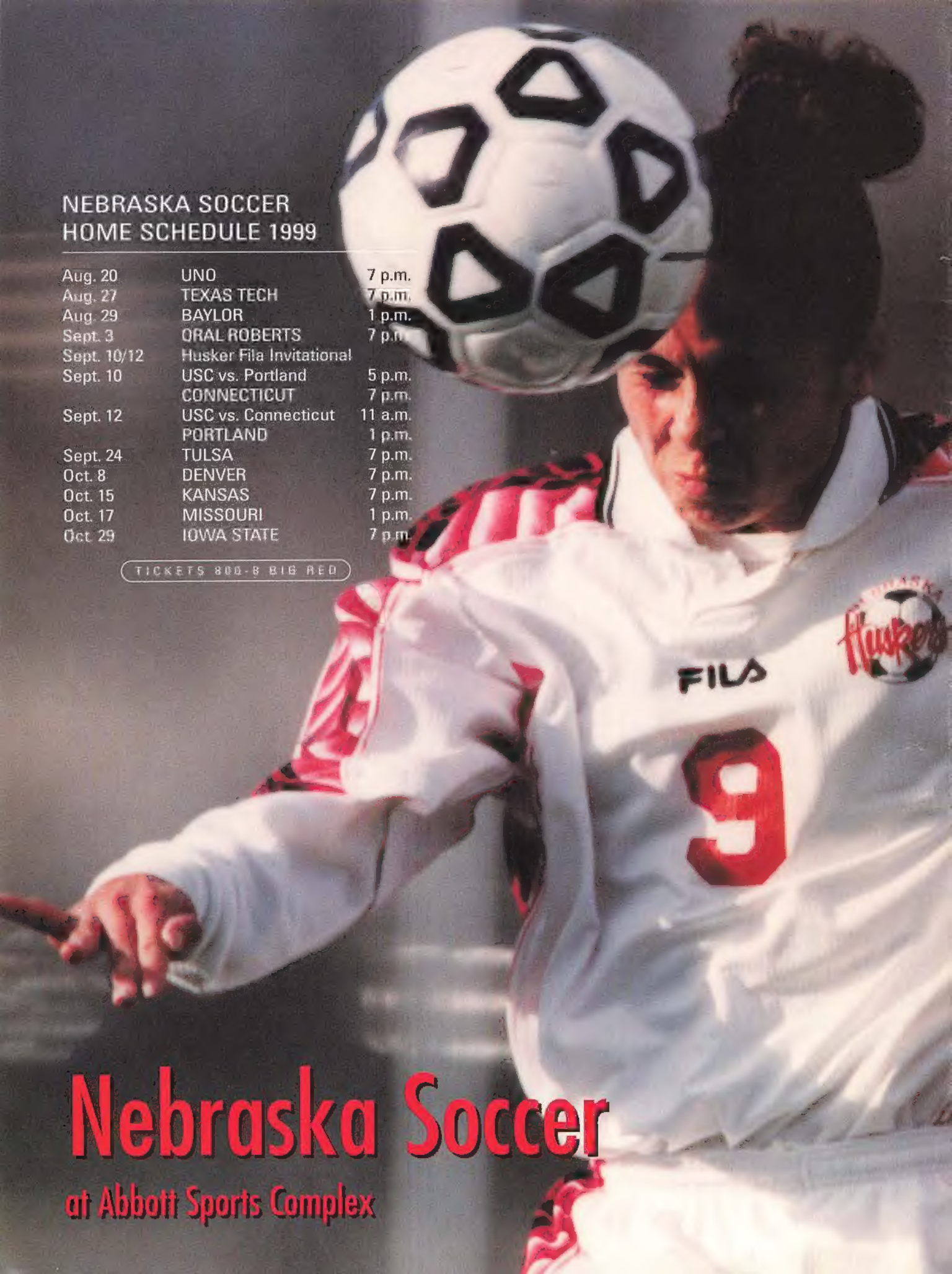
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Volume 19, No. 9  
SEPT. 18, 1999 • \$2.95

## Triple Threat







## NEBRASKA SOCCER HOME SCHEDULE 1999

Aug. 20	UNO	7 p.m.
Aug. 27	TEXAS TECH	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	BAYLOR	1 p.m.
Sept. 3	ORAL ROBERTS	7 p.m.
Sept. 10/12	Husker Fila Invitational	
Sept. 10	USC vs. Portland	5 p.m.
	CONNECTICUT	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	USC vs. Connecticut	11 a.m.
	PORTLAND	1 p.m.
Sept. 24	TULSA	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	DENVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	KANSAS	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	MISSOURI	1 p.m.
Oct. 29	IOWA STATE	7 p.m.

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SEPT. 18, 1999 • Volume 19, No. 9



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## 20 Local Products

Lincoln natives see pros and cons to playing football close to home. *By Mike Babcock*

## ON THE COVER

Eric Crouch races toward the end zone after catching a pass from Bobby Newcombe. *Photo by Scott Bruhn*



## On A Clear Day, You Can See . . .

*Opening of Skybox structure  
a satisfying time for athletic department*



**Brian Hill**

YOU CAN ALMOST see Omaha from the new press box at Memorial Stadium. At least it seems that way.

You can clearly see second base at Buck Beltzer Stadium next door.

The media's new expanded digs sits atop the two levels of skybox suites, which were used for the first time during the home opener against California.

The West Stadium Skybox Complex was dedicated in pregame ceremonies, and "Level 6" was dedicated as the Don Bryant Media Facility at halftime.

It was a satisfying time for Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne and company to see the new facility in use.

The athletic department will be conducting tours of the skybox and media facility in conjunction with Homecoming activities the week of Oct. 3-7.

"We feel that Homecoming Week is an excellent time to open our doors and show everyone our beautiful facility," Byrne said. "It is really something that all Nebraskans can be proud of, and we are certainly looking forward to having our fans come be our guests."

The Nebraska athletic department also received high marks in a major magazine's survey, scheduled to be published this week.

Nebraska was ranked No. 9 in a survey by The Sporting News, in which the 112 U.S. colleges who participate in NCAA Division I in both football and men's basketball, were graded according to various standards ranging from on-field to academic performance. The ratings cover the last four years of graduating classes and include GPAs and SAT scores for incoming freshmen. The Top Ten included, in order, Penn State, North Carolina, Notre Dame,

Stanford, Florida, Duke, Purdue, Virginia, Nebraska and Michigan State.

Nebraska received an A, an A-, a B+ and a B- for a 3.42 "GPA." The rankings were to be a cover story in the Sept. 13 issue.

Meanwhile, back at the home opener, Nebraska is struggling to pass the 100-yard mark in rushing offense — AS A TEAM. Some late work by third-team I-back Dahrran Diedrick, who finishes as the leading rusher with 29 yards, pushes the net rushing total to 114. Football can be a strange game. Nebraska gets fewer yards than its leading rusher would normally have and still wins 45-0.

Much of that is due to the big-play capability of Eric Crouch, who became the first Cornhusker in 26 years to run, pass and catch a pass for a touchdown.

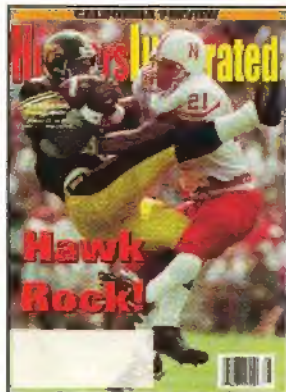
Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers did the trick in the 1973 Orange Bowl, actually running for three touchdowns, catching a 50-yard pass from Dave Humm and throwing a 52-yard scoring pass to Frosty

Anderson as Nebraska blasted Notre Dame 40-6 in Bob Devaney's final game.

Crouch's triple is more impressive in that it came entirely in the second quarter — a 1-yard run, a 70-yard scoring pass to Tracey Wistrom and a 60-yard reception from Bobby Newcombe.

His performance was as memorable on the field as a first look at the towering structure above.

Very impressive. ■



### Got Something To Say?

Please send your comments and questions to: Letters, 3210 NW 3rd St., Lincoln, Neb. 68521. You can also fax them to us at (402) 474-5132. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length. For those with electronic mail abilities, Hleditor@aol.com.

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# Physical Specimen

**Attention-getter  
'Goldberg' was  
a natural for  
Nebraska**

**A**lthough he wasn't among the biggest in a freshman class that included some exceptionally big linemen, Ryon Bingham attracted his share of attention.

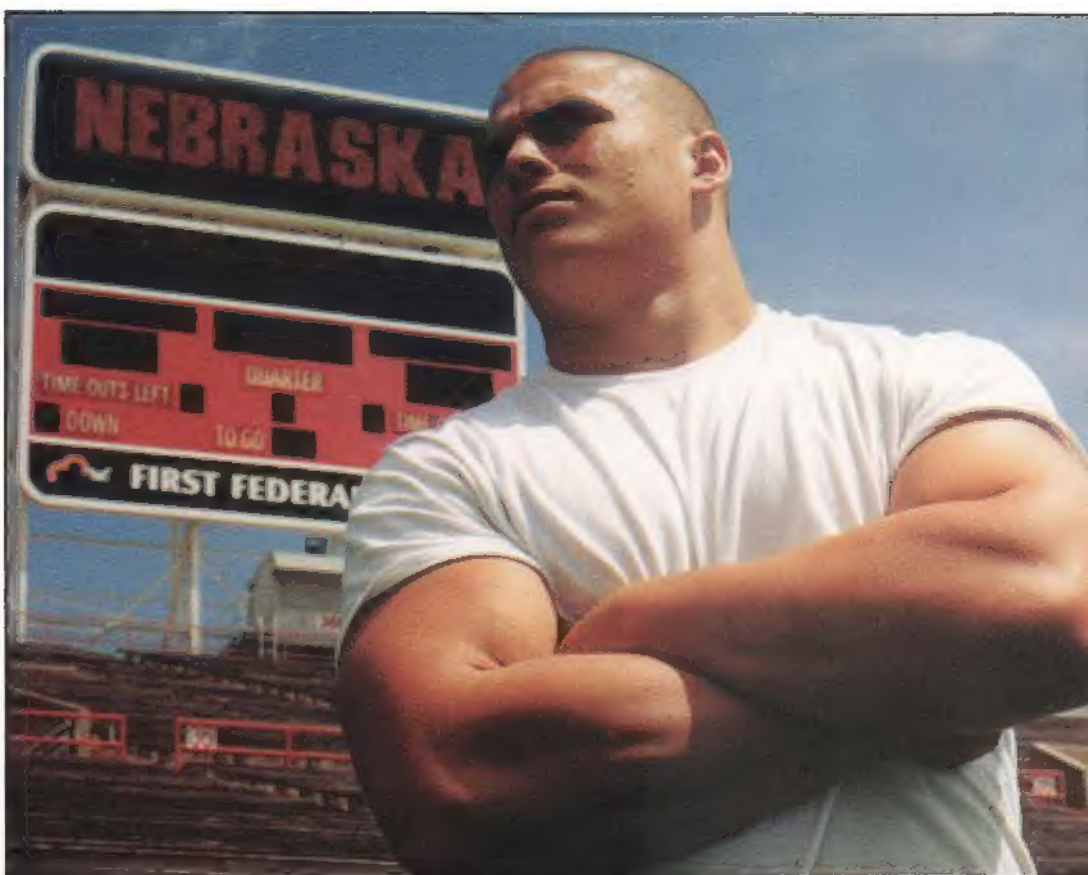
The 6-foot-3 Bingham weighed in at 268 pounds, not unusual for a defensive tackle. But his body fat was easily the lowest among the linemen, 9.88 percent, which translated means his lean body mass or muscle was 241 pounds, according to director of athletic performance Boyd Epley.

That contributed to his impressive appearance, as did trapezius muscles that rose from his shoulders like the slopes of a mountain and earned him the nickname "Goldberg."

Bill Goldberg, a former football player at Georgia and in the NFL, is now a star performer in Ted Turner's World Championship Wrestling. "He has some huge 'traps,'" said Epley, who compared Bingham's physique to that of Jerry Hannon, a Cornhusker shot putter in the early 1970s.

Hannon, who also competed as an Olympic weight-lifter, "was the strongest athlete I've ever worked with," Epley said. "He had that same 'trap' development."

Bingham is from Sandy, Utah, where he was the Salt Lake City Tribune's "Defensive Player of the Year" as a senior at Alta



Ryon Bingham was a Utah heavyweight wrestling champion at Alta High School.

High School. He also was a heavyweight wrestler, winning the state's large-schools championship as a junior and senior. His record those two seasons was 64-1, with 58 pins.

Bingham began lifting weights seriously as a high school sophomore. "I started playing football in about sixth-grade, and once you start doing athletics, you get competition and you want to get bigger and stronger, all of that," he said. "I guess I wanted to get bigger and stronger."

He has never lifted competitively, however. "Never had much time for that," he said.

Not surprisingly, Nebraska's strength facilities were a factor in his decision to become a

Cornhusker. He was familiar with them not only from his recruiting visit but also from attending Nebraska's summer camp. "They have THE best weight room in the country," Bingham said.

He's "an intense guy," Epley said after freshman testing in early August. "The only thing negative I might see with him, he might need a little work in his flexibility. He has been training very hard."

"We will work him on that (flexibility), if that's the case." But, Epley added, "I hate to even mention anything negative because all I see about Ryon Bingham is positive."

Bingham said he didn't think flexibility would be a problem, which was born out by the fact that he was

included on the 85-player travel roster for the opener against Iowa.

He might still redshirt, however. Unless he played, even briefly, in either of the first two games, he could still save a season of eligibility. "I'm not opposing it," he said of a redshirt.

"If I'm not going to get a lot of playing time, it'd be better to redshirt. Even if you did, it's a good year for getting experience and getting stronger and quicker because there's always room for that."

Experience and quickness, yes. But the Goldberg lookalike — his head was shaved — would appear to have plenty of strength already, as well as some extraordinarily large "traps." ■



# QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?



Patrick Kabongo

## MISSING MONTREAL

Freshman defensive tackle Patrick Kabongo, who almost certainly is spending a red-shirt season (it doesn't become official until a student-athlete goes through the season without playing) still gets homesick from Montreal, Canada. But "I like Lincoln a lot," he said.

"I like the people and stuff. It's kind of a small place. Montreal has a lot of people, and people don't notice you. Here everybody knows you. And I think that's what's good about here."

Kabongo would be noticeable regardless of the population.

He stands 6-foot-6 and weighed 310 pounds when fall camp began.

"I haven't had any (players) that big since I've been here," said defensive coordinator and defensive line coach Charlie McBride. "He's something new for me."

McBride envisions Kabongo as an outstanding pass rusher. ■



Don Bryant (left) and George Sullivan were honored at a reception Sept. 10.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HONORS LEGENDS BRYANT, SULLIVAN

Longtime athletic department employees Don Bryant and George Sullivan were honored at a reception at the Nebraska Club on the night before the California game.

The new pressbox at Memorial Stadium was dedicated and named the Don Bryant Media Facility in honor of the former Cornhusker sports information director, and the South Stadium athletic training room has been named the George Sullivan Athletic Medicine Center in honor of Sullivan.

## FOOTBALL TEAM LEADS BIG 12 IN GRADUATION RATE

The Cornhusker football team had the highest graduation rate among Big 12 schools for a fourth consecutive year. Nebraska's graduation rate for the classes from 1989 through 1992 was 63 percent, including 60 percent for African-Americans — tied with Baylor for best in the conference.

The school's graduation rate for all student-athletes who completed their eligibility at Nebraska is 86 percent. Nebraska exceeds the national average for graduation rate in all categories.

The statistics are determined by the government's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System graduation-rate survey, as required by NCAA Bylaw 30.1, and are based on six-year intervals.

The report includes student-athletes who enroll as freshmen, receive athletics-related financial aid in their first two years and are graduated within six years of initial full-time enrollment. Transfers count against their original institution's total even if they complete a degree in the required time.

## BRIEFLY NOTED

— Peter Warrick, Florida State's All-America wide receiver, might have become a Cornhusker if he had come up short of meeting NCAA initial eligibility requirements. When Warrick was a high school senior, Nebraska could enroll such partial qualifiers while Florida State could not.

"If he didn't qualify, he would have come to Nebraska," Cornhusker receivers coach Ron Brown said recently. As it turned out, Warrick did qualify and is now among the nation's best players.

— The third-ranked Nebraska volleyball team snapped Florida's 33-match home winning streak by defeating the No. 8 Gators 18-16, 9-15, 15-6, 15-6 for the championship of the SunTrust Invitational.

All-American Nancy Meendering, the tournament's most valuable player, turned in 19 kills, 14 digs and seven blocks in the championship match.

It was Florida's first loss in Gainesville since 1997.

— The Nebraska soccer team earned its highest national ranking in history, with a No. 4 rating in both the Soccer America Top 20 and the Soccer Buzz Top 25 last week.

Through Sept. 3, Nebraska was 47-4-1 all-time at the Abbott Sports Complex in Lincoln. The Huskers have not lost at home since the 1998 season-opening loss to Wisconsin-Milwaukee. ■



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## Size, Strength, Speed Set Him Apart

*Nebraska junior Alexander is an I-back in a fullback's body*



**Mike  
BABCOCK**

DAN ALEXANDER HAD RUN a pass route as an outlet receiver during the first major scrimmage of fall camp. He looked back at quarterback Bobby Newcombe, who was beginning to scramble.

"I saw two defenders coming after him," the junior I-back said later.

Sizing up the situation in a split-second, he decided the best he could do was block Julius Jackson, a pursuing linebacker. "I figured if I could get a good lick on Julius and

maybe knock him into the other guy, I could take those two off Bobby's back and give him more room to run," Alexander said.

He had not only a good angle on Jackson but also the element of surprise.

Newcombe set up the block, and Alexander did the rest, knocking Jackson off his feet.

"I just took advantage of the situation," said Alexander. "Julius, I'd say he's one of the hardest hitters on the team. He's one of those guys who's going to go out there and give 100 percent."

"He's one of those people who's going to rock you every time he hits you. And like I said, I was just lucky to catch him off-guard. Bobby gave him a little shake and got him off-balance."

Even though he delivered the blow, Alexander didn't take much credit for the block, or for his having overpowered strong-side linebacker Rod Baker earlier in the scrimmage.

Aside from the fact that he had done his job on the two plays, Alexander's biggest concern seemed to be that both Jackson and Baker hadn't been injured in the collisions.

"It's one of those things where you're not going out there to hurt people," Alexander said. "I always pray that I'm not hurting my own teammates, or not even hurting the people we play against in the regular season. But you've got to go out there and give 100 percent when you're playing football."

"It's a tough game. And those things are kind of expected."

They're expected, but probably not with such force. The 6-foot, 245-pound Alexander is bigger and stronger than either Jackson or Baker, which is a bit unusual for an I-back.

Alexander's combination of size, strength and speed set him apart. He's an I-back in a fullback's body. Lindy's college football magazine even lists him as the nation's seventh-best fullback.

(Look it up, page 29. Lindy's also identifies him as a sophomore, which, like a fullback, he once was but is no longer. Alexander, who began as a fullback at Nebraska, is a fourth-year junior.)

Anyway, the point here is that Alexander is something of

an anomaly, and not just because of his size and the fact that he plays I-back instead of fullback. He also is one of the nicest people you could ever meet, almost always smiling, extremely respectful and deeply religious.

"I've spent a lot of time in prayer this week," he said after that first scrimmage.

He hadn't been involved in contact under game conditions since last season's Kansas State game, which he started but left because of a right knee strain after just three carries.

Three days later, he underwent surgery to repair a ligament in the knee and a hamstring tendon. He had surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in the spring of 1997.

The second surgery was the reason he spent so much time in prayer and "a lot of time just trying to mentally prepare myself and get focused on what I need to do," he said.

His goal was to "give 100 percent and not worry about the knee. When I was off the field praying or when I was on the field trying to get things done, my knee never came into my mind."

"I thank God for that. I think him that I didn't have to worry about whether it was going to get hit or if I cut too hard, is it going to do anything? I just really felt I was blessed today."

You'd probably be hard-pressed to find a day on which Alexander didn't feel blessed.

He has become an important element of Nebraska's offense, complementing DeAngelo Evans by providing some additional muscle and a significantly different look.

"He's turning into an outstanding I-back,"

said Coach Frank Solich.

"He's worked tremendously hard on his hands in terms of catching option pitches. He really concentrates hard on that and does a good job of it now. There was a point in time . . . when you were really concerned about him operating in the option game (because of that).

"But he's worked hard on improving his hands, and right now, there's nothing we wouldn't be able to use him in, although there are some guys on our team who have better hands."

Alexander also has changed his running style, so that he doesn't look as much like a fullback as he once did when he carries the ball. "At one time, he was pretty much a straight-ahead guy," Solich said. "But now he's showing very good speed at times, and the ability to make people miss."

When there's no place left to go, however, he can still muscle-up.

"That's one thing about Dan," quarterback Eric Crouch said. "Whenever he's healthy, and even if he's not all the way 100 percent, he's going to go out there and give you his best shot."

And his best shot can be devastating. You can ask teammates as well as opponents. ■



**Dan Alexander gives opponents a different look.**



# Husker Center Puts It All On The Line

*Raiola says that if his unit does its job, it doesn't matter who's in the backfield*



**Bob SCHALLER**

DOMINIC RAIOLA doesn't want to hear the latest installment on "quarterback gate" at Nebraska. He doesn't care if DeAngelo Evans, Dan Alexander or Correll Buckhalter is carrying the football.

He doesn't care who is catching patches, for that matter. All he cares about is moving — opponents out of the way, keeping them from his quarterback or moving the chains, as in a first down.

"You know, I don't really care what anyone says about who is playing where or who the quarterback is or anything else," Raiola said. "Where we need it from is the line. It all comes down to what we do. You're wasting time if you talk about the other stuff. If the line is doing the job, it doesn't matter who is back there (at I-back or quarterback). If the line is moving people and knocking them down, we're going to get a lot of yards."

The Huskers struggled at Raiola's position of center the past two years. Aaron Taylor, an All-American guard, was turned into an undersized, average center as the coaches waited for Josh Heskew to develop the muscle and strength — particularly in the lower body — that he needed to do the job.

The Huskers had stability in the offensive line for so long during the national championship runs because of center Aaron Graham. While the loss of the great guards and tackles of those teams surely hit the Huskers hard, it paled in comparison to the whole Graham left when he was scooped up by the Arizona Cardinals. After the whole line suffered because of the shifting around while Taylor was at center, the coaches moved him back to guard and put Heskew in. That did equate to a national championship during Heskew's junior year of 1997, but in 1998, Heskew was never fully healed from a back injury, and the center position simply suffered because of that.

Maybe Raiola really wasn't ready to step in last year, though he claims he was. Perhaps the coaches really were right in saying Heskew graded out higher than Raiola. With the plenty-strong Raiola at center, the Huskers have a 6-2, 300-pound Rubik's Cube in cleats, who at times is tough for both opponents — and the Husker coaches — to solve.

"Dominic's the fire for us out there," said NU quarterback Bobby Newcombe. "He's an incredible athlete — he would return punts if we let him, and he'd do a good job."

Raiola is very much his own person. The Hawaii native has more in common with Graham than Heskew. While Heskew was quick to smile and take time to shoot the bull, Raiola twitches as though he'd like to knock the bull over and then spit on it. Raiola is like Graham in the sense that Graham had an enormous sense of confidence that only those close to the program really got to know: Graham's public image centered more around his Christian faith, so

he seemed more soft-spoken than he actually was. While "Raiola" and "soft-spoken" aren't likely to end up within a thousand words of each other — much less in the same sentence — there is no denying that this young man has all the tools to be one of the best ever at his position at Nebraska.

Raiola has been both outlandish and impressive so far. Late in the game against Iowa, Raiola lost control and was flagged 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct after taunting an Iowa player who had been blocked hard by NU's Mike Brown on the previous play.

Solich pulled Raiola from the game for the infraction.

"Coach told me, 'You're giving me a headache!'" Raiola admitted.

"That's true," Solich said. "But I wouldn't trade him for anyone. He's an emotional football player, but I love his energy."

Raiola claims he was flagged in error, but took responsibility for what was perceived as taunting.

"I really didn't say a word — their guy was actually saying stuff to me, stuff I can't tell you because you couldn't print it," Raiola said. "But the ref saw me backpedaling and backpedaling, and that's what got me called. It was stupid, and it won't happen again. I've got to knock that stuff off."

Even his teammates admit he gets on their nerves. Yet in the same breath they call him a guy they'd "go into a foxhole" with — perhaps that's because the noise would drown out Raiola.

"That's Dominic," said offensive lineman Dave Volk. "We have a lot of different personalities on the line this year, but I totally believe that's a good thing. Dominic is always going to pick you up."

Or knock you down, depending on which side of the ball you are on. His teammates admit he is, in practice, every bit the handful he is in games.

Now the starting center after backing up two-year starter Heskew last year, Raiola is eating up his new role and eating up whatever is across the line of scrimmage from him.

"It was different than last year because last year I'd hear from Josh what the defense was doing when he'd come off for me to go in," Raiola said. "Now, I have to figure it out. But I had no doubts as to what I had to do."

Husker defensive end Loran Kaiser said Raiola isn't a lot fun to practice against.

"He's very aggressive because he's afraid of failure," Kaiser said. "He uses that to get angry."

Raiola is big and tough and mean and cocky. He is a handful to just about everyone who crosses his path.

And as he's shown so far, he's exactly what Nebraska needs anchoring the offensive line. ■



**Dominic Raiola gives fire to the Nebraska offense.**

**Bob Schaller** covers the Huskers for the Scottsbluff Star-Herald. He has also written several books, including "Touchdown Tommie" and "Roar of Silence: The Kenny Walker Story."



# Having Two Quarterbacks A Luxury For Solich

*Crouch lets his performance  
answer the questions*



**Curt  
McKeever**

DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE for Nebraska to have both a first team and second team all-conference quarterback on the same team?

Now, that would be a controversy.

"Frank Solich has two of the best in the nation right now," said Iowa cornerback Joe Slattery after watching Bobby Newcombe and Eric Crouch shred the Hawkeyes in the season opener. "If they can get those two guys in the game at the

same time, or throughout the entire game, it's only going to benefit their team."

It's unlikely NU will have two all-conference signal callers. But it sure looks like the Cornhuskers have two of the most dangerous players you'd want to try and defend.

Solich must be pinching himself daily.

Even so, he called the decision to name Newcombe the opening-game starter probably the hardest he'd made in 30 years of coaching. The players were informed a week before the Iowa contest, and not long after, rumors began to swirl that Crouch had left the team.

Solich did miss a speaking commitment on Aug. 30 in order to meet with Crouch in Omaha to clarify his role.

"Eric really took it very hard, which was understandable. He had an excellent fall camp, and you could've made a case for either quarterback to be the starter," Solich said.

"It was very difficult on Eric. But, in most cases, if you give an athlete a little bit of time and let him have a chance to think through things, he's going to come out making some good decisions."

When Crouch entered the Iowa game at quarterback on Nebraska's fifth series, his competitive spirit became unmistakable.

Nebraska had moved the ball, but had yet to dent the scoreboard. Newcombe was off to a shaky start, throwing an interception and losing an exchange from center at the Iowa 15 for a second turnover.

Crouch's came in and, four plays later, left Slattery going for a fake pitch to I-back Dan Alexander on a 28-yard touchdown run.

Newcombe would return, and struggle, for the rest of the half before finally getting untracked by guiding the Cornhuskers to TDS on their first three second-half possessions.

"It was really nice to come out and score quickly like

that," Newcombe said. "That definitely lessened the pressure on the offensive line and receivers, and also myself a big time."

Crouch finished off Nebraska's scoring with two more touchdown runs. His last one was a 21-yarder in which he lowered his shoulder at the 7-yard line to steamroll his way through an Iowa cornerback.

"The things that happened the last couple weeks, you just try to go out there and take some of those things on the field," Crouch admitted. "I probably had a chance to maybe try and run around that guy, but I decided it's a physical game, just try to show some people how physical this sport is and how physical the Nebraska team is."

Before the opener, some people were wondering about Crouch's toughness. Not any more.

"As long as I'm on the field and I'm contributing to this team, it's a big factor for me," said Crouch, who was named by ABC Sports as Nebraska's MVP of the game.

Should it be a surprise that the Nebraska radio network named Newcombe its MVP?

"I don't feel like I've got any headaches from the quarterback spot right now," Solich said. "They're helping solve some headaches."

"It's always tough for the guy that's not first (team) to work his way through that. (But) I had no doubts that was going to happen on a positive note for Eric and our football team."

"I think if you don't have two quality quarterbacks, and your No. 1 guy goes down, it can really play havoc on your season."

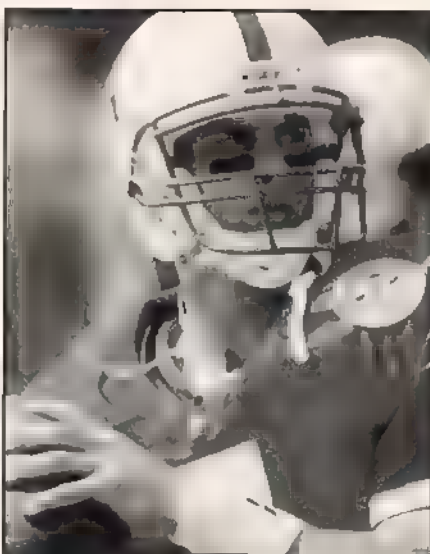
Look at Oklahoma State. The Cowboys lost two-year starter Tony Lindsay in their season opener, and now, they've got a veteran team being guided by a rookie.

Look at Nebraska in 1997. Had Scott Frost been injured, would the Cornhuskers have been equipped to make a run at the national championship? Probably not.

Right now, they've got two guys who are among the best in the Big 12, and maybe the country.

"Any time you're able to have fresh quarterbacks on the field, in our style of offense, you probably have yourself something," Solich said.

If only he could have similar "controversies" at all the other positions. ■



**Eric Crouch ran 28 yards for a touchdown on his fourth play in the Iowa game.**

*Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams*



# Golden Eagles Eye League Title

*Cal could have its best defense  
since the 1968 'Bear Minimum' unit*

**W**ith five consecutive winning seasons, including back-to-back bowl trips, under his belt, Southern Mississippi Coach Jeff Bower began his ninth season with his eyes clearly focused on regaining the Conference USA championship.

The Eagles captured the outright title in 1997 and shared the crown in 1996. After finishing second to unbeaten and seventh-ranked Tulane last year,

SO. MISSISSIPPI			
Record 2-0			
S6	Tulane	W, 48-14	
S11	Northwestern St.	W, 40-6	
S18	@ Nebraska		
S25	@ Texas A&M		
S9	@ East Carolina		
O16	Army		
O23	Cincinnati		
O30	@ Alabama		
N6	@ Memphis		
N13	SW Louisiana		
N20	@ Louisville		

NEBRASKA			
Record 2-0			
S1	@ Iowa	W 30-17	
S11	@ Kansas	W 31-10	
S18	So. Mississippi		
S25	@ Missouri		
S12	Oklahoma St.		
S19	Iowa St.		
S23	@ Texas		
S30	@ Kansas		
S13	Texas A&M		
S13	Kansas St.		
S28	@ Colorado		

junior college transfer Cable Davis, also got off to a solid start, completing 13 or 19 for 248 yards and four touchdowns. Cable had the No. 1 job at the end of spring drills.

"We evaluate those guys every day, and I've always said there was good competition there between those two guys," Bower said. "He won, he did the best

job."

Kelly threw TD passes to four different receivers in the opener, complementing Derrick Nix's 167 yards rush-

Southern Mississippi blasted the Green Wave 48-14 to open 1999.

"We want to win another championship and go to a bowl," Bower said. "That is our goal for every season. We want to win the championship, and we didn't do that last year."

Southern Mississippi wasted little time confirming its status as league favorites in the Labor Day opener, burying Tulane by taking control with its defense and expanding its lead with its offense.

"We did a lot of things like we wanted to see them done," Bower said.

## REDUPLY LINE

In order to regain their championship form, the Eagles must solve some major problems, but the offensive line remains a priority.

"The most critical thing is that we have to mature in the offensive line," Bower said. "Those guys have to be ready to play early in the season. We are young, and we are inexperienced, but we have some athletic ability there."

In the opener, the offensive line didn't give up a sack, and the Eagles had 200 yards rushing.

"For five guys that have never started a football game before, they did a good job," Bower said. "There's a lot of things we can get better at with that unit, but it was a good first ball game."

## SOPHOMORE STARTS AT QB

Sophomore Jeff Kelly, who earned the starting nod at quarterback over

## Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE			
SE	3	Matt Davison**	6-1 180 Jr
	9	Wilson Thomas	6-5 210 Fr.
LT	69	Adam Julch***	6-5 320 Sr
	66	Jon Rutherford*	6-3 295 So.
LG	63	James Sherman***	6-4 295 Sr.
	77	Toru Fonoti	6-4 330 Fr.
C	54	Dominic Raiola*	6-2 295 So.
	61	Matt Baldwin**	6-2 285 Sr
RG	55	Russ Hochstein**	6-3 280 Jr
	64	Steve Alstadt	6-5 275 So.
RT	58	Dave Volk*	6-5 295 So.
	75	Kyle Ko Imorgen*	6-5 290 So.
TE	85	T.J. DeBates**	6-3 250 Sr
and	87	Tracey Wistrom	6-5 220 So.
QB	12	Bobby Newcombe**	6-0 195 Jr
	7	Eric Crouch*	6-1 195 So
FB	15	Willie Miller**	6-1 240 Jr.
	22	Ben Kingston**	6-1 240 Sr
IB	4	DeAngelo Evans**	5-9 215 Jr.
	38	Dan Alexander**	6-0 245 Jr
WB	62	Sean Applegate**	5-9 185 Sr
	8	John Gibson*	6-0 185 Jr
PK	26	Josh Brown	6-2 185 Fr.

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI OFFENSE			
WR	11	Sherrod Gideon***	6-0 175 Sr
	1	John Floyd	6-4 193 Fr
ST	79	Brian Bell**	6-5 285 Jr
	78	Torin Tucker	6-6 310 Fr
SG	66	Tre Chambers*	6-4 284 So
	70	S. Blackmon***	6-6 324 Sr
C	67	Zeb Landers	6-9 266 Fr
	71	Jim Hicks	6-5 280 F
OG	55	Billy Clay	6-4 270 Jr
	63	Dennis Evans	6-3 275 Jr
QT	73	Jeremy Bridges	6-4 285 Fr
	62	Jeremiah Nesbitt	6-8 285 Jr
TE	88	Buck Micotto	6-4 250 Fr
	84	Orlando Dantzer*	6-4 255 So
WR	80	Todd Pinkston***	6-2 168 Sr
	15	Josh Guiley*	6-5 204 Sr
QB	17	Jeff Kelly*	6-2 204 So.
	7	Cable Davis	6-3 225 Jr
HB	44	Derrick Nix*	6-1 223 So
	22	Dwayne Woods*	5-8 191 So
FL	81	Dannye Fowler*	5-11 175 So
	83	Shawn Mills	5-11 175 Jr
PK	37	Brant Hanna*	6-2 202 So

## Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA DEFENSE			
DE	41	Aaron Walker	
	47	Chris Kelsay	
NT	47	Chris Kelsay	
	47	Jason Lott	
DT	47	Jason Lott	
	47	Jeramy Slechte	
LB	47	Kyle Vanden Bo	
	98	LP Wickham	
SLB	47	Tony Ortiz	
	47	Tony Ortiz	
	47	Timothy Brown	
	47	Eric Johnson	
	47	James Jackson	
CB	47	Wayne Greer	
	47	DeMar Grace	
	47	Clint Hiley*	
	14	Dion Booker	
	47	Mike Brown	
	47	Garrett List	
RCB	22	Rodney Brown*	
	47	Jeff Hempt	
	47	Dan Haden	

NEBRASKA DEFENSE			
DE	41	Aaron Walker	
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RCB	22	Rodney Brown*	
	47	Jeff Hempt	
	47	Dan Haden	



# PICKS

**Brian Hill**

**Editor**

## **Nebraska 41, So. Miss. 10**

Southern Mississippi is the type of team that sometimes gives Nebraska trouble, and there is the potential to look ahead to the Big 12 opener at Missouri. Neither factor will be enough for the Golden Eagles.

**Mike Bahcock**

**Contributing Editor**

## **Nebraska 35, So. Miss. 14**

Though it would be difficult to convince some fans, Southern Mississippi figures to be the Cornhuskers' most difficult non-conference opponent, as well as being better than several Big 12 teams. What Southern Mississippi isn't likely to have is sufficient depth to stay with the Cornhuskers for much more than a half, even if the game weren't being played at Memorial Stadium. That creates an even bigger problem for the Golden Eagles from Hattiesburg, Miss.

**Terry Douglass**

**Grand Island Independent Sports Editor**

## **Nebraska 35, So. Miss. 13**

The Golden Eagles could be one of college football's most underrated teams, and the program seems to have a knack for playing well against the big boys. The Nebraska coaching staff will make sure that's very clear to the Cornhuskers.

**"Timmo"**

**KTGL-FM (The Eagle)  
Lincoln**

## **Nebraska 38, So. Miss. 21**

Southern Mississippi will be a tougher opponent than most people think. If their young quarterback has time, it could be shades of Louisiana Tech for the Husker defense, which is hopefully further along than last year's squad. If the Husker offense stumbles early again, it will be close until the fourth quarter. Southern Mississippi will be able to keep the Husker offense off the field. The Huskers can't squander offensive chances. But time and numbers will prevail.

ing on 24 carries. Nix gained 102 yards in the second game against Northwestern State.

All Nix did in 1998 was turn in the

19th best rushing season in NCAA history by a freshman, despite the fact that he did not start at running back until the fifth game. His 1,180 yards on the ground during the regular season ranked 17th in the country.

Kelly's success continued Saturday, as he threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as Southern Mississippi beat I-AA Northwestern State 40-6. The victory gave the Golden Eagles their first 2-0 start since 1990.

Making his second collegiate start, Kelly kept the ball on a bootleg to open the scoring with a 6-yard touchdown run just two minutes into the first quarter. Kelly, who was 13-for-21 passing, added a 6-yard TD pass to Dannye Fowler to put Golden Eagles ahead 14-0. Adaluis Thomas ran 64 yards on a fumble recovery to give Southern Miss a 31-0 lead at the half.

### **TWO PLAYERS SUSPENDED**

The Golden Eagles played without starting wide receiver Sherrod Gideon and safety Leo Barnes. Both players were suspended by Bower earlier in the week for team violations but are expected to return for the Nebraska game.

### **DEFENSE EXPERIENCED**

The Eagles are in good shape on defense. Across the front line, the top eight players return at the four down positions. Two starting linebackers are also back for their senior seasons.

"We have a good situation there, but there are some things that we have to do better," Bower said. "We have to play the run better than what we did last year. I think we have to play with more consistency and play harder. I think we have to play harder as a whole football team. I don't think we were as consistent last year as we would have liked to have been as a coaching staff."

"This is a group that has talent and the front seven should be the strength of our defense. We have to develop some depth at all of those positions."

### **NEW FACES ON STAFF**

Bower has three new assistants this season.

Secondary coach Steve Davis returned to the Southern Miss staff during the spring of 1999, after spending the last two seasons as linebackers coach at Tulane. Davis spent 1987-90 as the defensive backs coach at Southern Miss and has coached at Troy State, Auburn, LSU, Livingston (now West Alabama), North Alabama and East Mississippi Community College.



**Defensive end Adaluis Thomas was the Conference USA Player of the Year and a third-team All-American.**

Vic Eumont joined the staff earlier in the summer serves as the special teams coordinator/recruiting coordinator. Eumont is a veteran of more than 20 years of coaching and has coached at Tulane, USL, New Mexico, Kansas and several high schools.

The final new face to the Southern Miss staff is Mitch Rodrigue. Rodrigue was a graduate assistant at Southern Miss from 1989 to 1990. He will serve as USM's running backs coach. Rodrigue worked from 1993-98 at Nicholls State where he was offensive coordinator and interim head coach in 1995. During his stint as interim head coach, Rodrigue oversaw recruiting leading up to national signing day. In just two seasons, that class helped give Nicholls its first appearance in the NCAA I-AA playoffs since 1986, when Rodrigue was a player for the Colonels.

Southern Miss' defensive coordinator Dave Wommack has been with the Golden Eagles since 1994, but is in his first full season as defensive coordinator. Wommack was named defensive coordinator prior to the 1998 Humanitarian Bowl. Wommack has been a defensive coordinator at three schools (UNLV/1992-93; Southwest Missouri State/1986-91; Bemidji State/1985) prior to coming to Southern Miss.

### **FIVE BOWL TEAMS**

The schedule includes five bowl teams from last year, including two — Texas A&M and Nebraska — that are rated in the Top Ten. The Golden Eagles play the Huskers and Aggies back to back, both on the road. ■



# 45-0,

# But . . .

*Running game sputters; defense,  
big plays too much for Golden Bears*

**Story by Mike Babcock**

**Photos by Scott Bruhn**

**T**he performance appeared to be vintage Nebraska. Ninety-five Cornhuskers played in a 45-0 victory against California.

But appearances are sometimes deceiving, and that was the case in Nebraska's home-opener, before a record crowd of 77,617. The numbers didn't add up. The result was greater than the sum of its parts. "It certainly, in some ways, was a surprising game," Coach Frank Solich said.

Surprising? Maybe this is what happens with Y2K.

There was a significant glitch in the computer-precision with which Nebraska usually runs the ball. The Cornhuskers managed only 114 yards on the ground, and their leading rusher was redshirted freshman I-back Dahrran Diedrick, who gained 29 yards on six fourth-quarter carries.

Diedrick was the No. 3 I-back while junior Correll Buckhalter sat out a one-game suspension as a result of his missing three days of practices and meetings.

Starting I-back DeAngelo Evans,

who's been bothered by sore hamstrings since two-a-day practices, carried six times for a net of 5 yards. And top backup Dan Alexander had 26 yards on six carries.

Even added together, the I-backs produced only 60 yards on 17 carries.

If someone had said before the game that Nebraska's leading rusher would have so few yards, "I would have said: 'You're full of it,'" quarterback Bobby Newcombe told reporters afterward.

"Because usually we want our leading rusher to have over 100 yards. But unfortunately in this game we weren't able to get the Nebraska-type yards we hope to get all the time.

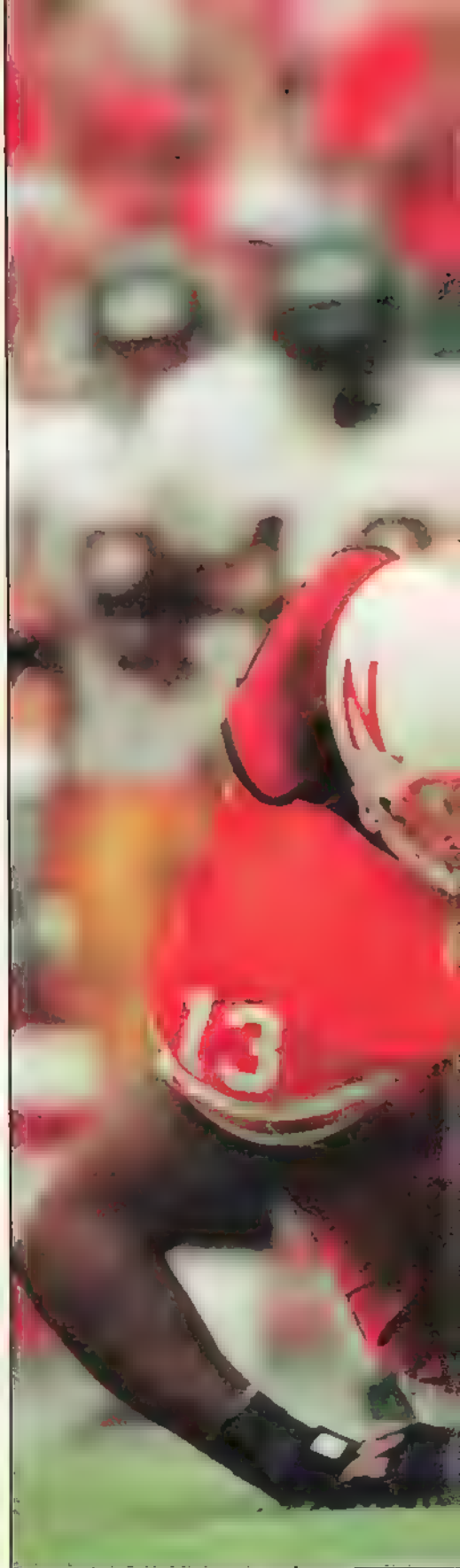
"Some games you're not going to get exactly what you're hoping for."

On the other hand, the Cornhuskers were hoping for a decisive victory.

And they got that. All's well that ends well. Right?

"I look at the final score before I look at the stats," said Solich. "But I look at it all."

What he saw was a victory



achieved despite running only 57 plays from scrimmage.

That's "not a lot of snaps," Solich said.

The week before, the Cornhuskers ran 77 plays from scrimmage and gained 543 yards,





Nebraska middle linebacker Carlos Polk sacks Cal quarterback Kyle Boller. Polk led the defense with seven tackles and had one of the Blackshirts' five sacks.

including 347 on the ground, in a 42-7 victory at Iowa. They gained more yardage during the second half against Iowa (337) than they did

during the entire game against California (301).

With so few snaps, "it's tough to generate a lot and feel comfortable

with what you're doing, either as a player — at the running back spot, at the quarterback spot — or as a coach," said Solich. However, "if





Nebraska cornerback Ralph Brown returns a pass interception, as teammate Jeremy Slechta looks for someone to block. Brown returned the pickoff 35 yards to the Cal 4, and Eric Crouch scored on the next play to put the Huskers up 38-0 in the third quarter.

you find ways to put points on the board, that's kind of what it's all about."

The way Nebraska found against California was putting the ball in the hands of sophomore Eric Crouch, who scored three touchdowns and passed to tight end Tracey Wistrom for another.

Crouch, of course, is a quarter-

back, except when he's a flanker, which he was when he scored the second of his touchdowns. He caught a Newcombe pass and ran 60 yards with it.

The play was a jailbreak screen, set up by what Nebraska did last season at California. Crouch abruptly changed his pass route, cutting back toward the middle and catch-

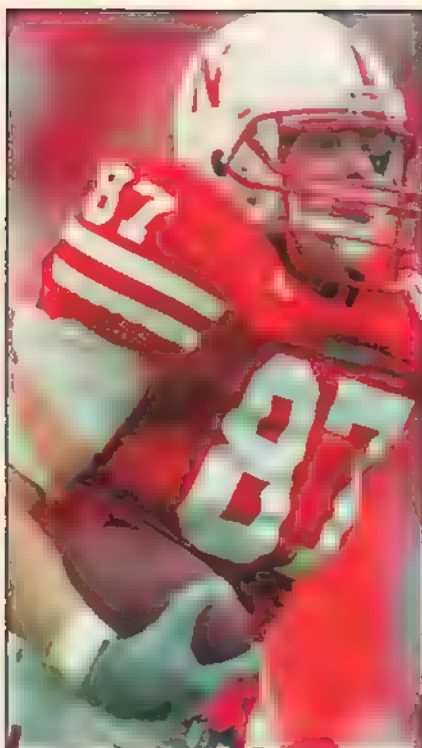
ing the Newcombe pass.

What might have been a 6-yard gain turned into 60

"I was a little tired from the series before," Crouch said. "My legs weren't quite all there, but I felt like all I had to do was get to the end zone. The last five, 10 yards, I kind of got winded."

The California defense could take





Tight end Tracey Wistrom races for the end zone on a 70-yard scoring pass from Eric Crouch.

little solace in that.

A wide-open Wistrom ran 10 yards farther, on the touchdown pass from Crouch, less than two minutes earlier as the Cornhuskers fashioned an in surmountable 28-0 halftime lead.

"I was surprised to be that wide-open," said Wistrom, who had to zigzag to avoid being tackled short of the end zone. "Fortunately it wasn't an 80-yard run. I might not have made it.

"You've got a lot of things running through your head right about then. I didn't realize how wide-open I was until I didn't get caught after 10 yards. Then it kind of started to go through my head."

Later, Wistrom told Crouch, "I think I looked a little bit faster on the field than he did. But we all know that's not true," Wistrom quickly added. "I'm definitely not ready for any race with Eric.

"I'll never be ready for one, actually."

The four touchdowns in which Crouch was involved were framed by touchdown runs of 12 yards by Newcombe and 5 yards by Alexander, early in the fourth quarter.

Any one of those touchdowns, or Josh Brown's 37-yard field goal with 3:55 remaining in the third quarter, would have been sufficient for the

# 4TH & 1 INCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Iowa Game



## I-BACK BUCKHALTER RETURNS TO TEAM

Junior I-back Correll Buckhalter, apparently disappointed about being third-team and playing only briefly in the Iowa game, missed the first three days of practices and meetings the week of the California game.

He returned on Thursday after meeting with Coach Frank Solich. Buckhalter was suspended for the California game but should return for the Southern Mississippi game.

## OTHER NOTABLES

— Split end Matt Davison had one pass reception for 18 yards against the Golden Bears. The junior from Tecumseh, Neb., now has caught at least one pass in 19 consecutive games.

— Senior Dan Hadenfeldt averaged 49.5 yards on six punts, with the longest a career-high 73 yarder to set California back on its own 23-yard line. This is his first season as Nebraska's punter.

"The signs were there that Dan would perform that way because of how he's handled himself, really in spring ball and how he handled himself through the course of fall camp," Solich said of the walk-on from Des Moines. "Until a guy actually gets on the field and does it, you're never quite sure.

"But the odds were he would be a very good punter for us."

— Solich also praised redshirted freshman Josh Brown, who kicked a 37-yard field goal and was five-for-five on extra-point kicks. Brown has been bothered by a groin pull "pretty much from the beginning of practice this fall and has kind of come and gone," said Solich.

"So he hasn't been able to kick with any kind of regularity."

— Redshirted freshman I-back Dahrran Diedrick led the Cornhuskers in rushing with 29 yards on five carries. The 29 yards were the lowest team-leading total since the Holiday Bowl game.

Quarterback Eric Crouch was the leading rusher that night, with 28 yards.

— Attendance at the game was a Memorial Stadium record 77,167. The stadium's official seating capacity increased from 72,200 to 74,031 with the improvement project that included skyboxes on the west side. The previous record was 76,663 for the 1987 Oklahoma game.

— The victory was Nebraska's 14th in a row in home openers and the third in three games against California. The other victories were last season (24-3) and in 1978 (36-26).

— The Cornhuskers again were productive in the passing game, completing 5-of-9 for 187 yards and two touchdowns. "Our team's a little more balanced now," said junior quarterback Bobby Newcombe. "But teams are still not respecting the pass as much as we'd like them to.

"Like today, they stacked all those guys in the 'box' and we weren't able to run the ball as efficiently as we'd like. But I think down the road, people will have to respect our passing."

— Carlos Polk, on California's driving to the Nebraska 14-yard line on its second possession: "They had a good little drive at the beginning and we saw it (a shutout) slipping away.

"We knew that we had to make a stance."

Polk denied, tongue-in-cheek, that he was exhorting his teammates.

"I'm not a loud person," he said, adding with a laugh, "when I'm sleeping."

— Mike Brown and Ralph Brown each intercepted a pass. Mike's interception, which followed a tip by defensive tackle Steve Warren, was the fifth of his career. Ralph's was career-interception No. 9 and ranks him in a tie for eighth on the Cornhuskers' all-time list. Dana Stephenson is first, with 14.

Ralph Brown also increased his school-record total for pass breakups to 37. ■



victory, thanks to Nebraska's defense, which posted its first shutout and held the opposition scoreless for a second consecutive game.

Iowa's touchdown came on a blocked punt.

"Every time we go out there and play, the subject is always a shutout, and always to dominate the opposing team," said defensive tackle Steve Warren.

The Cornhuskers did that, limiting California to 145 yards, including a net of 40 yards rushing on 35 carries. They intercepted two passes and had five sacks for 37 yards in losses.

Even though California's offen-

sive line and quarterbacks were young and inexperienced, "we look at every team like they're defending national champions," middle linebacker Carlos Polk said. "Every game we're coming in thinking they

have 11 All-Americans out there and we've got to stop them."

Polk was the busiest of the Blackshirts, making seven tackles, including one of the sacks.

California put together an 11-play, 52-yard drive on its second possession, reaching the Nebraska 14-yard line before a holding penalty and a sack by defensive tackle Jeremy Slechta helped force an unsuccessful field goal attempt — the ball hit the left upright.

"I think we were just kind of caught off-guard a little bit. A team's going to get yards every once in a while. You have to be reasonable. You can't just shut them down totally," Warren said.

A second California field goal attempt also hit an upright.

It was that kind of an afternoon for the Golden Bears, who were penalized 14 times for 110 yards. Even so, their defense frustrated Nebraska at times, and held the Cornhuskers to their lowest rushing total since last season's Oklahoma State game, in which they finished with 73 yards.

"Maybe no one's been listening, but I've been saying all along that I think they're (the Golden Bears) an excellent defensive football team, and they commit a lot of people against the run," Solich said.

"We try to find ways to move the football. Ideally, we'd like to get that done on the run.

"When they commit 10 people to the run, it may not happen to your satisfaction, but that means some other things ought to open up. Their style of defense makes you look bad, and it can get you for a lot of lost yardage, which I'm sure we had today. But it also is vulnerable to big plays.

"And we had enough of those to get ourselves where we wanted to get score-wise."

Nebraska looked like its old self based on the final score.


But the final statistics just didn't compute ■

**"I look at the final score before I look at the stats. But I look at it all."**

**— Frank Solich**

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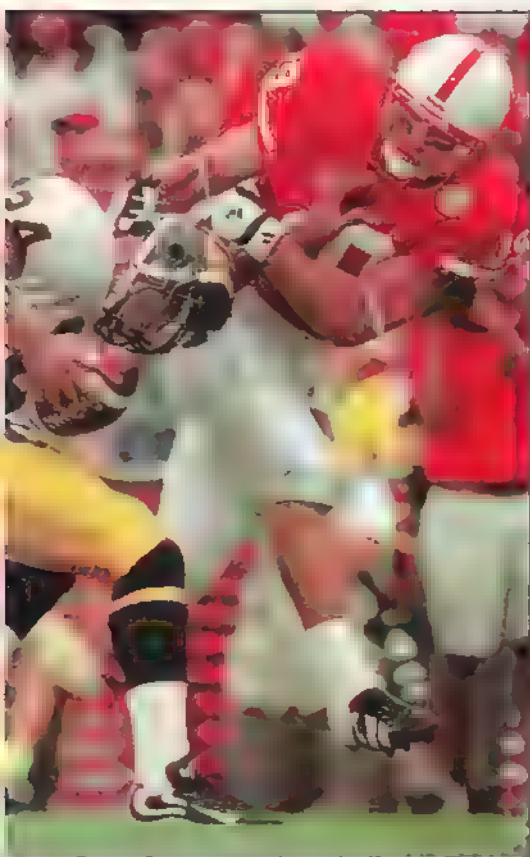
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# BY THE NUMBERS



Nebraska safety Clint Finley takes down Cal's LaShaun Ward on a kickoff return.

## California vs. Nebraska Sept. 11, 1999 • Lincoln

Score By Quarters						
California	0	0	0	0	—	0
Nebraska	7	21	10	7	—	45

### Team Stats

	CAL	NU
First Downs	9	15
Rushing	2	7
Passing	5	4
Penalty	2	4
Rushing Attempts	35	48
Yards Gained Rushing	83	182
Yards Lost Rushing	43	68
Net Yards Rushing	40	114
Net Yards Passing	105	187
Passes Attempted	26	9
Passes Completed	8	5
Had Intercepted	2	0
Total Plays	61	57
Total Net Yards	145	301
Avg. Gain Per Play	2.4	5.3
Fumbles-Lost	11	3-1
Penalties-Yards	14-110	6-65
Punts-Yards	8-352	6-297
Avg. Per Punt	44.0	49.5
Punt Returns-Yards	2-9	4-41
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	2-38
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	1-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-77	1-25
Possession Time	30:53	29:57

### Scoring

**N** — Bobby Newcombe 12-yard run (Josh Brown kick)  
**N** — Eric Crouch 1-yard run (Brown kick)  
**N** — Tracey Wistrom 70-yard pass from Crouch (Brown kick)  
**N** — Crouch 60-yard pass from Newcombe (Brown kick)  
**N** — Brown 37-yard field goal  
**N** — Crouch 4-yard run (Brown kick)  
**N** — Dan Alexander 5-yard run (Chace Long kick)

Att. — 77,617  
 Temp. — 68

## Individual Statistics

### Nebraska

RUSHING					
Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Dedrick, D.	5	29	5.8	20	0
Alexander, D.	6	26	4.3	9	1
Crouch, E.	9	21	2.3	8	2
Perino, J.	4	18	4.5	21	0
Newcombe, B.	12	11	0.9	22	1
Miller, W.	3	10	3.3	6	0
Evans, D.	6	5	0.8	7	0
Kingston, B.	2	4	2.0	3	0
London, F.	1	-10	-10.0	0	0

PASSING				
Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Newcombe, B.	3-7-0	42.8	85	1
Crouch, E.	2-2-0	100.0	102	1

RECEIVING					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Wistrom, T.	2	102	51.0	70	1
Crouch, E.	1	60	60.0	60	1
Davison, M.	1	18	18.0	18	0
London, F.	1	7	7.0	7	0

FIELD GOALS			
Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Brown, J.	1	1	37

PUNTING				
Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Hadenfeldt, D.	6	287	47.8	73

PUNT RETURNS					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	2	17	8.5	12	0
Craver, K.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Shaw, B.	1	12	12.0	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Stelia, R.	1	25	25.0	25	0

DEFENSE						
Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Polk, C.	4	3	7	2	12	0
Wills, A.	4	1	5	0	0	0

Slechta, J.	3	1	4	2-7	0	1-6
Craver, K.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Johnson, E.	1	2	3	1-6	0	1-6
Finley, C.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Warren, S.	1	2	3	1-1	0	0
Jackson, J.	0	3	3	1-1	0	0
Ortiz, T.	1	1	2	1-8	0	1-8
Brown, M.	1	1	2	0	1-3	0
Kaser, L.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Ke say, C.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Wichmann, J.P.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Nelson, C.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Buehlerback, B.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Loehr, J.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Mooberry, B.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Brown, R.	1	0	1	0	1-34	0
Stelia, R.	1	0	1	1-8	0	1-8
Booker, D.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hemje	1	0	1	0	0	0
Coyne, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Golliday, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Dedrick, D.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Gelman, T.	1	0	1	0	0	0
McGraw, G.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Shaw, B.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Vanden Bosch, K.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Tata, T.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Burrow, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0

### Cal

RUSHING					
Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Fields, M.	14	29	2.1	9	0
Igber, J.	4	17	4.3	5	0
S Muhammad	4	13	3.3	5	0
Echerna	4	9	2.3	3	0
White, J.	2	1	0.5	4	0
Clemens, S.	5	12	2.4	7	0
Boller, K.	2	17	-8.5	0	0

PASSING				
Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Clemens, S.	6-16-1	26.1	84	0
Boller, K.	2-10-1	18.2	21	0

RECEIVING					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Ainsworth, M.	4	53	13.3	16	0

Fields, M.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Surgener, B.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Igber, J.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Young, J.	1	6	6.0	6	0

FIELD GOALS			
Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Brache, I.	0	2	0

PUNTING				
Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Harris, N.	7	352	50.3	65
Team	1	0	0.0	0

PUNT RETURNS					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
O'Neal, D.	2	9	4.5	7	0

KICKOFF RETURNS					
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
O'Neal, D.	2	45	22.5	29	0
Ward, L.	1	32	32.0	32	0

DEFENSE						
Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Marzett	6	3	9	0	0	0
Carter, A.	4	4	8	4-29	0	2-23
Miller, K.	3	3	6	0	0	0
Destefano, P.	0	5	5	0	0	0
Parker, J.	2	2	4	1-6	0	1-6
Sanyika, S.	2	2	4	1-3	0	0
Iwuoma, C.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Jimenez, J.	0	4	4	0	0	0
DeLoach, J.	2	0	2	1-6	0	1-6
Hunter, W.	1	1	2	1-1	0	0
O'Neal, D.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Waasdorp, J.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Hale, D.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Ward, L.	1	0	1	1-10	0	0
Pompa, T.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hosey, C.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Tugbenyoh, M.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nwangwu, D.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Fujita, S.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cherry, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Williams, Y.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Smith, C.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Favae, F.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Wauker, L.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Doherty, K.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Surgener, B.	0	1	1	0	0	0



# Local Products

**Lincoln natives see pros, cons to playing football close to home**

**By Mike Babcock**

**K**yle Kollmorgen didn't have the same interest as many other high school football players when he attended Nebraska games at Memorial Stadium during the recruiting process.

If the game was a blowout, as was often the case, he would leave during the third quarter. On a particularly cold day, he would leave before. It was the same way when he was a sophomore in high school and sold soda pop at Cornhusker home games to earn spending money.

He would arrive early, after playing a game the night before, and pick up his first tray of cups. With luck, he would empty that tray and three more before the opening kickoff. Then he would find a place to stand, or if he was lucky sit, and watch as Nebraska dominated another opponent.

There were few close home games that season, so "I'd watch the first half and go home," said Kollmorgen, the Cornhuskers' sophomore offensive tackle. "I'd take off."

The experience held no fascination for him. After all, he had been attending games at Memorial Stadium since he was "seven or eight." His father had tickets, and his grandfather had tickets.

"So it was no big deal to me," he said. "I probably started coming in 1987."

He enjoyed watching Nebraska. But "once you get in high school, you get so caught up in high school football that you just kind of turn your head and don't follow it as much," he said.

He can recall attending Photo Day maybe once, at the most.

"I would rather watch cartoons," he said with a laugh.

Kollmorgen is among several current Cornhuskers who grew up in Lincoln. For such players, the experience can be different, if for no other reason than they're close to home.

"There are benefits and negatives, at the same time," said senior wingback Sean Applegate. "It just kind of depends on the individual. If you're a



Backup tackle Kyle Kollmorgen was an all-state selection at Lincoln Southeast.

guy who feels cooped up in Lincoln and needs to get out, then going away would probably be good. But there are a lot more benefits, I'd say."

Among the benefits in his case was the opportunity to live at home, a cost consideration because he had to pay his own way as a walkon. Even if he had been a scholarship athlete from Lincoln, "living at home seems like a lot smarter thing to do," Applegate said. "I would recommend it."

Initially, anyway. Applegate's determination and hard work paid off. He was put on scholarship this season, and "I've got my own place now," he said, explaining: "It's kind of nice and quiet."

He also can eat at the training table now, and "that's huge. It costs quite a bit to eat there if you're a walkon. It definitely helps out having the training table. That's like icing on the cake."

Kollmorgen lived in a dorm his first year at Nebraska and has lived with teammates since, including offensive tackle Dave Volk and defensive tackle Casey Nelson this year. He considered moving home "just because it would be cheaper, and that's one less stress," he said.

Despite living at home until now, Applegate hasn't felt distanced from his teammates. The demands of practices and meetings are such that play-

ers spend a majority of their waking hours together.

Those who live in dorms or share apartments "do a lot of social things together," Applegate said. "But you can always do that (socialize) as well. It's just, there's more of a choice."

Plus, the solitude can be a blessing when it's time to study. Applegate was first-team Academic All-Big 12 last season, with a 3.391 cumulative grade-point average in industrial technology education.

Living in Lincoln and playing football at Nebraska "there are definitely a lot more eyes on you, a lot of people you grew up with, coaches you know," said Applegate. "That may be difficult at times because you go into a store and old high school buddies want to know the lowdown on everything."

"So you have to be a little patient. But it's not too bad."

Such questions often are difficult to answer, in part because "I don't think anyone who's not involved can understand how much goes into college athletics," Kollmorgen said.

"It's just so much time and effort and stress you have to balance along with your school. My parents tell me that. They couldn't even guess what I go through; they couldn't even understand it."

Even though he grew up in Lincoln, Kollmorgen, a first-team, all-class, all-state lineman as a senior at Lincoln Southeast High School, considered Kansas State as well as Nebraska. He talked with Wildcats Coach Bill Snyder and even made an unofficial recruiting visit to Manhattan, Kan.

"They just didn't seem as positive, as confident in me as Nebraska seemed," he said.

Had he gotten a different impression during the visit, he might have gone to Kansas State. If he had decided to play for the Wildcats, his friends would have accepted it, he said. "I don't think they would have disowned me. But everybody would have been like: What were you thinking?"

As it was, he picked Nebraska on its merits. "I felt this was where I should be. This is where I'd fit in best," he said, adding: "It looks as though I made the right decision."

Many high school players from Lincoln don't consider other pro-



grams. If Nebraska offers them a scholarship, they're quick to take it. "I think it's the dream of a lot of Lincoln players just to play here," Kollmorgen said. "And I'm not going to say it wasn't mine. I always wanted to play here."

"But you just get excited about other schools when you're in high school."

Getting away from home can be appealing at that age. Kansas State would have been nice because it's just over a two-hour drive from Lincoln, close enough to get home without being too close.

"Your parents aren't going to show up every day," said Kollmorgen.

It didn't take long for him to realize that playing football at Nebraska wouldn't leave much time for visits home, even with home in Lincoln. His first two years, he was able to get home quite a bit. But he estimates he'll be lucky to make it more than once every three or four weeks this season.

What once was taken for granted now seems special. "It's nice to get



Sean Applegate scored his first collegiate touchdown in the opener at Iowa.

home, lay on your couch, watch your TV that you've known for years, pet your dog, kick back," said Kollmorgen.

As with most players from Nebraska, there is pressure to represent one's high school and community. "If the Lincoln High football program can say it has two guys playing for Nebraska, it kind of makes that

program look good and maybe encourages the younger guys," Applegate said.

(Wingback Troy Hassebroek, a red-shirted freshman, also is a walkon from Lincoln High.)

But in many cases, such pressure is self-imposed.

"It's not really there. You just put it on yourself," said Kollmorgen. "So you just go out and do the best you can. And you hope things all fall into place."

As a redshirt, Kollmorgen often watched Southeast games at Seacrest Field. But those opportunities have diminished, unless the games are played on days other than Friday and Saturday.

"I love high school football games," Kollmorgen said. "It's so much fun to watch the younger players. It reminds me of when I was there. It was so much easier . . . when the offense wasn't so complex."

He never imagined just how complex when he was in the stands watching, for a half or so. ■

## Solich Thought He'd Stay at Southeast

Kyle Kollmorgen doesn't hide his pride in the Lincoln Southeast High School football program, occasionally to the chagrin of those around him. "You joke around," Nebraska's sophomore offensive tackle said recently. "I always tease everyone, other Nebraska (in-state) players."

"And a lot of the trainers have gotten tired of me talking about Southeast."

Kollmorgen has had plenty about which to talk. The Knights are two-time defending state champions in Class A, Nebraska's large-schools classification. They have won four state championships total and have been perennial title contenders during Coach Chuck Mizerski's 19 seasons.

"Coach Mizerski is a great coach," said Kollmorgen.

Mizerski, who has averaged eight victories per season, succeeded Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich at Southeast, of course. Solich spent 11 seasons as head coach there, compiling a 66-33-5 record and directing the Knights to state championships in 1976 and 1977.

At age 23, Solich was the youngest head football coach in Class A when he took the job in 1968. Prior to that, he spent two seasons at Omaha Holy Name High School.

If not for encouragement from his wife Pam, he probably wouldn't have

interviewed for the Southeast job, he has said, because he had become so attached to Holy Name in just two years.

His first team had gone 2-6. But his second had reversed that, going 6-2.

"I felt good about it," Solich once said, recalling the experience. "I'd just come off a good season with kids who'd really turned things around. And I'd gotten real attached to them. That's easy to do. And that's what made it difficult to change. I really had no thoughts of leaving."

"It was my wife's idea to apply and take a look at the Southeast job."

The transition from Holy Name to Southeast was in some ways similar to the transition he made at Nebraska from being an assistant to succeeding Tom Osborne as head coach.

Despite retiring as coach, Bill Stephenson, his predecessor, was still at Southeast, "and sometimes you worry about the (former) head coach remaining in the building," Solich has said.

"But Bill was tremendous and never interfered."

Although he did apply for the head coach's job at the University of Nebraska Omaha after the 1977 season, Solich was sufficiently comfortable at Southeast that Pam again had to encourage him to consider the long-term benefits of accepting Osborne's

offer to be a part-time assistant at Nebraska.

After 11 years at Southeast, "I thought I would probably stay there," said Solich.

Two members of his staff also have been involved in high school football in Lincoln. Linebackers coach Craig Bohl played at Lincoln East, and running backs coach Dave Gillespie was an assistant coach at Lincoln High — Eric Knoll, the current head coach at Lincoln High, is a former Cornhusker.

From the beginning, Lincoln's high schools have made significant contributions to Nebraska's football program. Nebraska even played exhibitions against Lincoln High around the turn of the century.

Though in a given season, one might be better represented than the others, all of Lincoln's public high schools, as well as Pius X, have been well-represented at Nebraska over the years.

Southeast currently has the most scholarship players. In addition to Kollmorgen, redshirted freshman tight end Jon Bowling and true freshman offensive lineman Chris Loos are former Knights.

"A lot of kids who play football in high school in Lincoln prefer to go to Southeast because of the tradition there," Kollmorgen said. No offense. It was just school pride showing again. ■



# Strange Combination

**Nebraska's Stella fills unusual dual role as linebacker/kick returner**

Sophomore Randy Stella tapped nervously on a plastic cup during the linebackers' meeting with coach Craig Bohl prior to the Nebraska football team's season-opener at Iowa.

Senior Tony Ortiz reached over and grabbed the cup. "Relax," he said.

When the meeting ended, Ortiz asked Stella if he was still nervous and told him: "I'll show you how to get that out. Before we go out (on the field), we're just going to start screaming."

And that's what the two did. The Ortiz primal scream therapy "tended to help a little bit," Stella said. "The scream gets it all out of you. It calms that heart rate down real quick."

Stella's nervousness had been building for the better part of two weeks, soon after running backs coach Dave Gillespie sent him on the field with the kickoff team during practice.

"I thought he wanted me to do it for the scout team or something," Stella said.

What he quickly discovered, however, was that Gillespie was trying him on the No. 1 kickoff team, as a kick returner. Stella was as surprised as anyone. He is, after all, a weakside linebacker, and linebackers typically aren't asked to return kickoffs, unless the kickoffs are onside or shanked.

And even then, most linebackers would be coached to fall on the ball.

Stella, however, is supposed to catch the ball and run with it, something he did well at Omaha Benson High School and might have continued to do at Nebraska if not for a broken ankle.

The ankle injury occurred during his sophomore season at Benson and caused recruiters to focus on his skills as a defensive player. Even so, "I wouldn't mind going back to offense," he said.

For now, however, his opportunities to carry the football will come on kickoffs.

"It takes me back to high school," said the 6-foot, 205-pound Stella, who returned a few kickoffs at Benson.



Nebraska sophomore Randy Stella returns a kickoff against California.

"They didn't kick it to me too much, though. That was the problem.

"They'd kick it to one of my teammates, which was kind of stupid, I thought."

The teammate was Kenton Keith, "who had a little better agility than I did," he said. Keith is now a running back for former Cornhusker player and assistant Tony Samuel at New Mexico State.

Stella and Keith keep in touch with each other.

"He gets to rub it (that he's still a running back) in my face," Stella said.

Because Stella isn't likely to get

much time at linebacker, playing behind seniors Eric Johnson and Julius Jackson, returning kickoffs is a way to get him involved. He also plays on the kickoff coverage team, the punt coverage team and the punt return team — though he's not a returner.

He didn't have to wait long for his first opportunity to handle the ball. He returned the opening kickoff against Iowa 29 yards. "I was hoping it would come to me," he said.

"I didn't feel nervous at all. I was real focused, no jitters or anything."

It was a scream, one might say. And he could thank Ortiz for that ■





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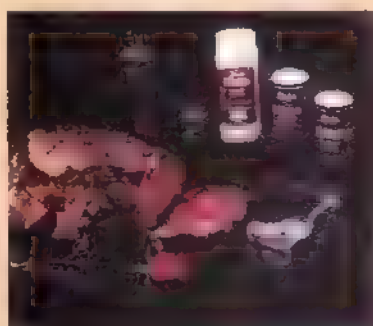
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# Husker Fools Fighting Irish

*Notre Dame thought  
it was prepared for  
Nebraska's Chamberlin*

**By Mike Babcock**

**K**nute Rockne's scouting report on Guy Chamberlin was thorough.

Rockne, a Notre Dame assistant, noted that Chamberlin would wet his fingers when he was going to pass. He would hold his hands in a certain way when the play was to the left and a different way when the play was to the right. And he would never cut back when he was carrying the ball.

If he ran toward the end, he would continue running to the end.

Based on such assessments, Coach Jesse Harper formulated a plan to stop Chamberlin.

Rockne's observations might have been correct when he scouted Nebraska. But they didn't hold true on the afternoon in late October of 1915 when Notre Dame played the Cornhuskers in Lincoln.

Chamberlin didn't always pass when he wet his fingers. And he cut back against the pursuit when Notre Dame defenders tried to force him to the sideline. He ran 19 and 20 yards for touchdowns and passed 35 yards to end Ted Riddell for a touchdown to lead Nebraska to a 20-19 victory.

Without Chamberlin, the Cornhuskers would have been easy, Harper said afterward.

The loss would be the only blemish on Notre Dame's record that season. In seven victories, Harper's team allowed a combined nine points, seven against Texas and two against Rice.

The victory was one of eight, without defeat or tie, for Coach Jumbo Stiehm's Cornhuskers, who would outscore their opponents by a combined 252-39 and



Guy Chamberlin was Nebraska's first consensus All-American.

shut out five

It was a dominating team. Halfback Dick Rutherford cleared the way for Chamberlin with his blocking, as did linemen Earl Abbott and Tim Corey, who were relatively big for their time.

Stiehm's teams were characterized as small, quick and tough, relying on

deception, fundamentals and tenacity as well as power. But Abbott weighed 196 pounds, and Corey, who had the maturity of one season at Ripon College before transferring to Nebraska, weighed 205.

Oh yes, and the 6-foot-1 Chamberlin weighed 192. A sports-writer once described him as looking like a piano-mover capable of running the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds, which he could.

Lincoln Journal sports editor Walt Dobbins, himself something of a legend, wrote: "Hula-hipping his way thru opposing lines, slashing around the ends — knees high — and possessing a potent stiff arm, Chamberlin was the most feared, the most talked (about) ball carrier in the Midlands."

Chamberlin, who was listed as an end, "did everything well," Dobbins wrote.

Chamberlin was Nebraska's first consensus football All-American. He came from a farm near Blue Springs, Neb., in Gage County by way of Nebraska Wesleyan, where he played for two seasons before transferring, with persistent urging by some of Stiehm's Cornhuskers.

He played for the Nebraska freshman team in 1913, impressing Stiehm with his rugged tackling as well as his offensive exploits, then led the varsity to a 15-0-1 record in two seasons.

Those seasons contributed to a 34-game unbeaten string that began early in 1912 and didn't end until a 7-3 Homecoming loss against Kansas in 1916, under Coach E.J. "Doc" Stewart.

Stewart replaced Stiehm, who was hired away by Indiana for an annual salary of \$4,500. The winningest coach by percentage (35-2-3, .913) in Nebraska history would have remained for a salary increase from \$3,500 to \$4,250,

## TEAMS OF THE DECADE

Second in a  
series  
(1910-1919)

### Huskers Illustrated Team of the Decade, 1910-19

<b>End</b>	Guy Chamberlin (1914-15)
<b>End</b>	Walter F. Chauner (1909-10-11)
<b>Line</b>	Sylvester Shonka (1909-10-11)
<b>Line</b>	Tim H. Corey (1914-15-16)
<b>Line</b>	Vic Halligan (1912-13-14)
<b>Line</b>	Earl L. Abbott (1913-14-15)
<b>Line</b>	LeRoy B. Temple (1908-09-10)
<b>Back</b>	Dick Rutherford (1913-14-15)
<b>Back</b>	Leonard Purdy (1911-12-13)
<b>Back</b>	Owen Frank (1909-10-11)
<b>Back</b>	Paul Dobson (1916-17-18-19)
<b>Kicker</b>	Vic Halligan (1912-13-14)



which Lincoln businessmen were more than willing to guarantee. Football revenue (\$35,000) would have supported the raise. But faculty protests sent him packing.

The only losses under Stiehm came against old nemesis Minnesota, 21-3 in 1911 and 13-0 in 1912. With the help of some unique scouting by assistant and former Cornhusker Owen Frank, however, Stiehm fashioned a 7-0 victory at Lincoln in 1913. The loss so distressed Minnesota that it discontinued the series, opening the spot on Nebraska's schedule filled by Notre Dame two years later.

Nebraska and Minnesota did play at Minneapolis in 1919, tying 6-6, but the schools didn't resume an annual series until the late 1930s, all because of what happened in 1913.

Frank was a halfback on Cornhusker teams coached by Stiehm and his predecessor W.C. "King" Cole. He and teammates Sylvester Shonka and Len Purdy drew profuse praise from Michigan coach Fielding Yost after Nebraska played the powerful Wolverines to a 6-6 tie at Lincoln in 1911.

That was Frank's final season as a player, then he joined Stiehm's staff.

Frank took postcard-size photographs of the Minnesota shift with a pocket camera in 1912, and he and Stiehm used them to prepare for the Golden Gophers' unique offensive alignment.

Nebraska scored on a drive that included a lateral and pass from Rutherford to tackle Vic Halligan, who had lined up as an end, and culminated in a touchdown pass by quarterback Max Towle.

End Gordon Beck had to come back to catch Towle's pass, which was enough for the victory as the Cornhusker defense, aided by Frank's photographs, stymied Minnesota.

The excitement of the victory, Nebraska's first against Minnesota since 1902, was such that dirt from the end zone in which Beck scored the touchdown was placed in the school trophy case.

Purdy, who caught passes for gains of 13 and 14 yards on the winning drive against Minnesota, was an outstanding running back, as were Frank and Rutherford, both of whom were his teammates.

Frank was a "darting halfback," wrote Omaha World-Herald sports editor Frederick Ware. Some considered him the equal of another halfback from Grand Island, Bobby Reynolds.

Shonka, "a prodigious tackle" according to Ware, Walter Chauner

and LeRoy Temple were among those whose blocking helped clear the way for the elusive Frank.

Halligan, who came from North Platte to earn All-America honors from Walter Camp as a tackle, also could have qualified as the kicker on the all-decade team. He kicked 17 extra-points and six field goals in addition to scoring two touchdowns for Stiehm's 7-0-1 team in 1914.

Paul Dobson, however, gets double-duty on the all-decade team. He played fullback and earned All-Western second-team honors from Walter Eckersall of the Chicago Tribune.

He also was an outstanding punter and place-kicker, a fact illustrated in an upset of eastern power Syracuse at

snow-covered Nebraska Athletic Field in late November of 1919.

The slender Dobson, captain of that war-time team coached by Henry Schulte, kept Syracuse in poor field position with his punts and kicked a field goal for a 3-0 victory.

By then, Chamberlin was one year from beginning a professional career that would earn him a place in the NFL Hall of Fame — one of only two Cornhuskers to be so honored. The other was Link Lyman.

"'Chamie' could do everything well," wrote Dobbins.

Notre Dame knew that in 1915, thanks to Rockne's scouting report.

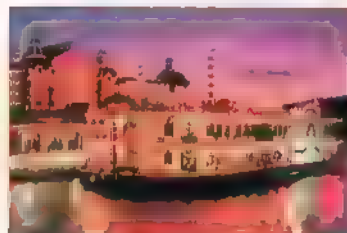
What it apparently didn't know was that Chamberlin also could be unpredictable. ■

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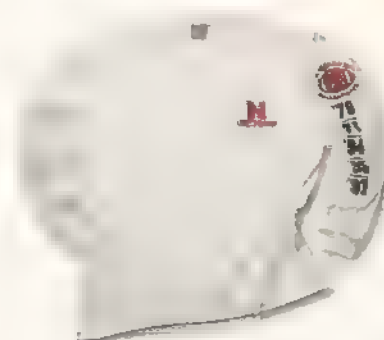
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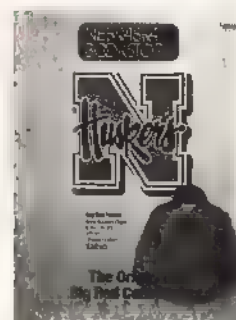
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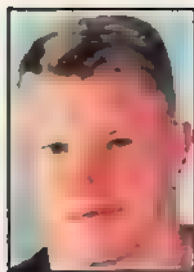
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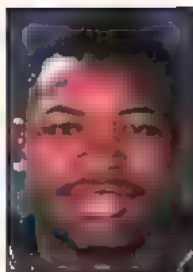
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Scott Frost



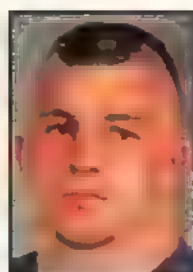
Ahman Green



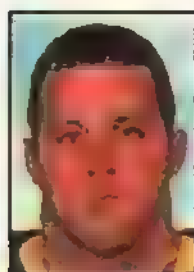
Jason Peter



Will Shields



Cory Schlesinger



Grant Wistrom

## Ex-Huskers in the NFL

No.	Player	Pos.	Team				
20	Michael Booker	DB	Atlanta	30	Mike Minter	DB	Carolina
3	Kris Brown	K	Pittsburgh	97	John Parrella	DE	San Diego
58	Doug Colman	LB	N.Y. Giants	99	Christian Peter	DT	N.Y. Giants
67	Chris Dishman	OG	Arizona	97	Jason Peter	DE	Carolina
55	Troy Dumas	LB	Denver	33	Lawrence Phillips	RB	San Francisco
55	Jay Foreman	LB	Buffalo	93	Mike Rucker	DE	Carolina
47	Scott Frost	DB	N.Y. Jets	30	Cory Schlesinger	FB	Detroit
86	Irving Fryar	WR	Washington	68	Will Shields	OG	Kansas City
54	Aaron Graham	C	Arizona	90	Neil Smith	DE	Denver
30	Ahman Green	RB	Seattle	68	Brendan Stai	OG	Pittsburgh
53	Jon Hesse	LB	St. Louis	90	Jared Tomich	DE	New Orlenias
88	Sheldon Jackson	TE	Buffalo	62	Adam Treu	OT	Oakland
26	Vershan Jackson	RB	Kansas City	44	Eric Warfield	DB	Kansas City
52	Donta Jones	LB	Carolina	77	Zach Wiegert	OT	Jacksonville
97	Chad Kelsay	LB	Pittsburgh	22	Jamel Williams	DB	Washington
45	Tyrone Legette	DB	Carolina	37	Tyrone Williams	DB	Green Bay
34	Joel Makovicka	FB	Arizona	91	Jason Wiltz	DT	N.Y. Jets
				98	Grant Wistrom	DE	St. Louis

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# Decision Was Good One

**Former player Revelle happy she got chance to return to Nebraska**

**R**honda Revelle had no doubts about coming to Nebraska. Her willingness to ride 44 hours on a Greyhound bus from Eugene, Ore., to Lincoln, in January, was evidence of that.

Revelle, Nebraska's head softball coach of seven seasons, had decided, after much deliberation, to transfer from Oregon, where she had played as a freshman for Coach Nancy Plantz.

When Plantz accepted the job of replacing Don Isherwood as coach of the Huskers, she asked Revelle to come along. Rules regarding such situations were much more relaxed at the time because women's intercollegiate athletics were governed by the AIAW rather than the NCAA.

Revelle's initial response was: "Wow, I don't think I can make that decision right now."

So she pondered it for a couple of months. Among the factors that persuaded her to leave Oregon and her hometown (she was from Eugene) was the fact that the athletic department "was having financial problems and it might be dropping to Division II in some sports," she said.

"I had a few months to think about it, and I was going to make it the best decision of my life."

Looking back, "it really has been," Revelle said recently.

She has taken Nebraska to national prominence, advancing to five consecutive NCAA regionals and reaching the College World Series in 1998, when she was Big 12 coach of the year.

"The first base line in any goal-setting is making the NCAA playoffs," said Revelle, who pitched for the Huskers' first College World Series entrant in 1982. "But I feel like we're at a point where that's not even good enough. We need to be knocking at the CWS door every year."

And eventually winning an NCAA championship.

"There will someday be a program outside of Arizona and California that wins the CWS. Why not Nebraska? I feel we can say that," Revelle said. "Why not?"

Recruiting is a key, of course, and Revelle has gone about it aggressively,



**Nebraska softball coach Rhonda Revelle pitched for the Huskers' first College World Series entrant in 1982.**

emphasizing the positives instead of dwelling on the negatives, in particular the cold-weather climate.

She wasn't accustomed to such cold. Soon after arriving at Nebraska from Oregon, she called home in Eugene. "Mom, there's this thing here called windchill. And it says 70-below."

A softball field that will be a part of a \$25 million complex, which also includes a baseball field to be used by Nebraska and an independent minor league team, will help immensely. "If we're going to fight weather, then we'd better have some other aces up our sleeves," she said.

"The new facility, I feel so fortunate to be a part of that package."

When Revelle was a Husker, the team practiced and played at Ballard Field in northeast Lincoln. Because of the distance from campus, "people didn't know we existed," she said.

The softball team didn't have locker room facilities. Players had to get ready in their dorm rooms and carry whatever they needed. They would carpool to and from practices and games.

Revelle's senior year, an area in Schulte Fieldhouse was set aside for their use. It's now a storage closet. When the weather was bad, which it often was, the softball team practiced in the fieldhouse. But because the football team had first call on the facility during spring practice and the baseball team was second in line to use it, the softball team had to practice in the

## 25 YEARS

### of Women's Athletics

In celebration of 25 years of women's athletics at Nebraska, Huskers Illustrated is featuring stories with Husker women student-athletes from the late 1970s and 1980s, remembering the way things were and discussing how things have changed.

early morning or late evening.

No one complained, however, because "you don't know any different," said Revelle.

Because of a limited budget, the Huskers' non-conference schedule included several games against small college opponents, among them Kearney State, Wayne State and Emporia State, schools in driving distance. "We probably had one flying trip a season," Revelle said.

The experience was new for coaches as well as for athletes. Everyone was getting on-the-job training. The Huskers' batting practice routine was "three sets of 10 cuts, twice a week," said Revelle.

"Can you imagine that? Now we're taking 150 to 200 a day."

The change in administration of women's athletics from the AIAW to the NCAA in the early 1980s was significant. As an athlete, however, "I didn't even begin to understand the magnitude," she said.

"The whole business end of the sport has changed."

Under AIAW rules, student-athletes had to pay for their own recruiting visits. So Revelle went to Texas-Arlington and Cal Poly Pomona at her own expense before settling on Oregon.

After playing at Nebraska, she served as head coach at Nebraska Wesleyan for three seasons, then spent five seasons as an assistant at Cal State-Hayward and San Jose State. "I made the decision to go to California because if I wanted to work at this, I needed to get experience," she said.

When she left, however, she hoped she might return.

"If (Nebraska) will take me back' were kind of my parting words," she said. "The commitment, the pride in the university runs so deep. You really can't explain it to anyone." ■

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# It's Just a Matter of Time

*Versatile freshman  
Cepero expected to  
settle in at setter  
for Huskers*

**By Todd Henrichs**

**T**erry Pettit can be pretty set in his ways. Pettit, Nebraska's volleyball coach for the last 22 years, hasn't had much reason to change. The Huskers have been successful in winning matches and winning fans, showing consistency few in the sport can match.

But in the course of three days this fall, Pettit and his coaching staff scrapped the offense Nebraska teams operated from for most of the past 15 years. Pettit wasn't bored. In fact, the opposite was true. Pettit was so excited with the skills of freshman Greichaly Cepero, he had to find a way to get her on the floor.

"She's one of the most beautiful athletes I think I've ever had the opportunity to coach," he said.

The 6-foot-2 freshman, a native of Puerto Rico, is everywhere in practice. She trains early with the setters, then works with the primary passers, right-side hitters and finally the middle blockers every day. She excels in all areas, making her a perfect fit for Nebraska's new offense.

Nebraska freshman Greichaly Cepero (left) is congratulated by her teammates.

Nebraska, like most collegiate teams, has run the one-setter, 5-1 offense for many years. As its name infers, the newly-installed 6-2 includes two setters. By design, it allows for three attacking players on the front row in every rotation.

The Huskers began the season with Jill McWilliams and freshman Lindsay Wischmeier splitting the setting chores. Cepero has played as an attacker but will be asked to add part-time setting duties in the new future.

"The challenge is that by the time Greicha is ready to step into a starting role as a setter, I just hope we're not so dependent on her passing and ball-handling and defense and all the other things she does," Pettit said.

"She's somewhat a victim of her own talent. But down the road, whether that means next week or next year at the latest, she's going to be a setter here, and my prediction is that she will be one of the best setters we've ever had and maybe one of the best setters college volleyball has ever seen."

The prediction is bold, but one which shouldn't be discounted. Under Pettit, Nebraska has produced an All-American setter 12 times since 1983. The list includes Fiona Nepo and Christy Johnson and national team setters Lori Endicott and Cathy Noth.

But Cepero is a rare breed even among the best company. A two-sport standout, Cepero says basketball is her "passion." She was recruited by just a few of the top programs and only came to Nebraska because of the promise she could play two sports beginning next season.

She caught the eyes of many at club tournaments this summer, but other college coaches could only shake their head. She was tied to the coaches at Nebraska, who first spotted Cepero at a club tournament in Denver two summers ago. She was a hitter then, but showed the ability to be a setter at Setter U.

"I try not to think about that and just go out there and do my job," Cepero said. "My parents tell me not to worry about it and just have fun."

Cepero has been pointed toward an athletic career since the day she was born. Back home in Dorado, Puerto Rico, the name "Greicha" means Greece. It was her father's dream that Greichaly (pronounced GRAY-sha-lee) would someday participate in the Olympic Games.

Cepero, just 18, has already represented her island on Junior National teams in both sports. Last summer, her mother, Maria, decided to send her to

"... she's going to be a setter here, and my prediction is that she will be one of the best setters we've ever had and maybe one of the best setters college volleyball has ever seen."

— Terry Pettit

a U.S. high school to improve her English before college. She isn't yet completely comfortable with the language, but after a year at McDonogh High in Owings Mills, Md., she's confident in any situation.

"I don't want to prejudge anything right now, but Greicha probably has more poise and is more comfortable in new situations than everybody in this room," Pettit said even before his team's first official practice. "You're going to be... entertained by how talented she is."

"She's truly a remarkable athlete."

Cepero is just a part of a recruiting class Pettit already ranks as the best in the program's 25-year history. Like Cepero, Wischmeier played extensively in Nebraska's first three matches. Classmates Amber Holmquist of Texas and Laura Pilakowski of

Columbus also saw their first action early in the year.

That shouldn't be a surprise considering Volleyball Magazine ranked NU's recruiting class No. 3 nationally last spring. But at Nebraska, playing as a freshman is quite a feat.

Even Nepo, a three-time All-American, saw only limited action her first season. The same was true for Nancy Meendering, who went on to earn All-American honors as a sophomore a year ago.

Facing top-10 opposition with its new offense, preseason No. 3 Nebraska opened the season 0-2 for the first time ever. But they won't stay there long, Florida Coach Mary Wise said.

"Greichaly is going to be great," she said. "All they need is practice time." ■

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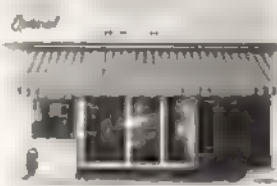
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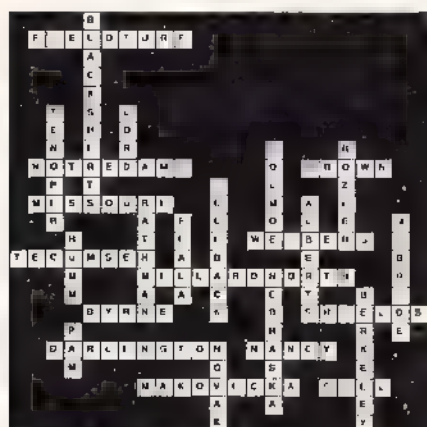
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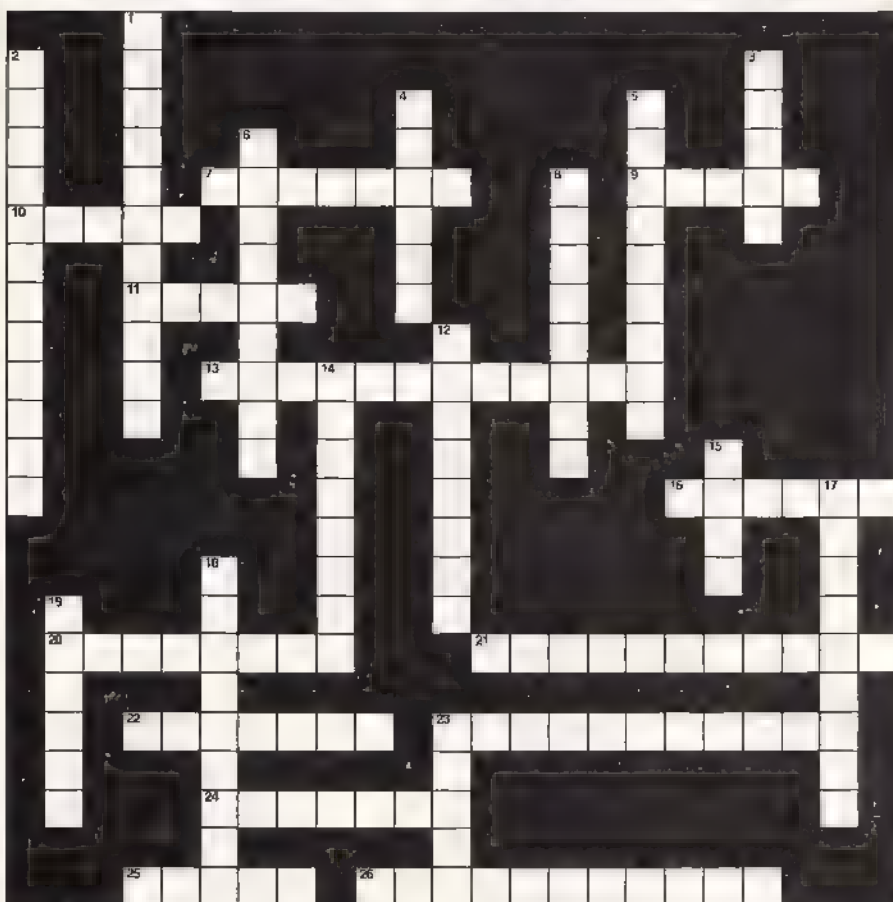
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- 7 NU's first Heisman winner  
 9 NU's No. 4  
 10 NU's strength coach  
 11 So. Mississippi coach  
 13 First 2000 opponent  
 16 Backup guard from Hawaii  
 20 Irving Fryar's new team  
 21 Ex-Husker and Lion fullback  
 22 NU's leading receiver vs. Iowa  
 23 Defense nickname  
 24 1998 Novak Trophy winner  
 25 NU's play by play announcer  
 26 NU's lifter of the year

## DOWN

- 1 So. Mississippi location  
 2 So. Mississippi nickname  
 3 NU athletic director  
 4 NU's rush ends coach  
 5 NU's leading rusher vs. Iowa  
 6 First 2000 road opponent  
 8 Frank Solich's other college sport

## CROSSWORD



- 12 1994 national champion  
 14 NU coach in 1960  
 15 NU's linebackers coach  
 17 1998 national champion

- 18 1998 Chamberlin Trophy winner  
 19 NU's No. 7  
 23 NU's leading tackler vs. Iowa  
 Answers in Sept. 25 issue

# This Week in Husker History

## September 12

**1970** — Nebraska opens what will be its first national championship season by defeating eventual Atlantic Coast Conference champion Wake Forest 36-12 at Memorial Stadium. A 61-yard touchdown pass from Jerry Tagge to Johnny Rodgers gives the Cornhuskers a 28-5 halftime lead.

## September 13

**1997** — A handful of fans boo quarterback Scott Frost when he returns to replace Frankie London late in the first half against Central Florida at Memorial Stadium. The unruffled Frost rallies the Cornhuskers from a 17-14 halftime deficit to a 38-24 victory and eventually, on to the national title.

## September 14

**1992** — Nebraska scores on seven of its first nine possession to build a 43-0 halftime lead on the way to a 71-14 vic-

tory against Colorado State. The Cornhuskers amass 696 yards of offense and are aided by a record-tying eight Colorado State turnovers. Coach Tom Osborne uses 98 players.

## September 15

**1984** — The Cornhuskers, who have just moved up to No. 1 in the Associated Press poll, fumble eight times, losing four, but still manage to defeat Minnesota 38-7 in Lincoln. I-back Jeff Smith rushes for 183 yards and scores two touchdowns, one on a 90-yard kick off return

## September 16

**1995** — Clinton Childs runs 65 yards for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage as Nebraska overwhelms Arizona State 77-28. Sun Devils coach Bruce Snyder is miffed that Matt Turman and Lance Brown team up on a 39-yard touchdown pass with 38 seconds

remaining.

## September 17

**1983** — The Cornhuskers' "Scoring Explosion" offense shows it has a sense of symmetry, scoring 21 points in each quarter in defeating hapless Minnesota 84-13 at the Metrodome. Irving Fryar catches two passes, both for touchdowns, to set a school single-game record with 138 receiving yards. He also scores on a 41-yard run. Mike Rozier rushes 15 times for 196 yards and three touchdowns.

## September 18

**1965** — Freeman White sets a school single-game record (soon broken) by catching eight passes as No. 1-ranked Nebraska defeats Texas Christian 34-14 at Memorial Stadium. Two of White's receptions, from quarterback Bob Churchich, are good for first-quarter touchdowns. ■

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# GRID RECRUITING

## Top Receivers Consider NU

**Recruits see more passing in Husker offense**

**By James Hale**

**T**rying to project who Nebraska is going recruit to play wide receiver is like finding a needle in a haystack.

Because of the dominance of the running game, most big name prep wide receivers don't look at Nebraska. Signing them hasn't always seemed to be a priority at Nebraska either, however, the Cornhuskers wouldn't turn down one of the super blue chips if he wanted to play his college football in Lincoln.

Most years, the Huskers recruit athletes and move one or two of them to wide receiver. Many skill players recruited by Nebraska can play on both sides of the ball, and potentially great wide receivers come out of the group.

This year, however, Nebraska might be able to sign a highly touted wide receiver. The Huskers are throwing the ball more, and there is more of an opportunity for a wide receiver to make a living in Nebraska's option-oriented attack.

Surprisingly, the Huskers are recruiting some of the biggest names in prep receiving, and it looks as if they are going to get visits from some of the best. Nebraska has always recruited the New Jersey area very hard, and this year will be no exception as two of the

top five prep receivers play in that area

Johnnie Morant (6-foot-5, 220 pounds with 4.45 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Parsippany, N.J., has the size that every college recruiter looks for and is a fluid athlete with great speed and hands to boot. Morant proves his athletic ability on the basketball court, where he is also being recruited, after averaging 20 points per game last season.

Despite drawing double and triple teams, Morant caught 39 passes for almost 900 yards and just might take a visit to Nebraska.

"Nebraska is one of the best football programs in the country, and because their running game is so good, a wide receiver should always get one-on-one coverage," Morant said. "That is something that I am looking for. I know they don't throw the ball as much as some teams in the college football, but many teams don't win as much as Nebraska does either. I will just have to take a close look at what they are trying to do with their offense and see if I can get enough action out there or see if when I do catch a pass, if I am going to score more often than not."

Morant favors Syracuse, Florida State or South Carolina over Nebraska, Purdue and Ohio State.

Carlos Perez (6-1, 195, 4.45) of Hoboken is another New Jersey native that is drawing the Huskers' attention. Another Preseason All-American, Perez caught only 22 passes last year but for an outstanding 630 yards and nine touchdowns.

Noted for his great hands, Perez is



The first receiver to commit to Nebraska was tight end Chris Septak of Millard West.

an acrobatic receiver always making the circus catch. Fourteen schools have offered scholarships to him at press time, including Nebraska, where he believes he will visit in December.

"Nebraska has a great tradition and has shown me a lot of interest," Perez said. "Their offense is beginning to throw the ball more and more, and that impresses me. Nobody has a better football program in the country, and with their offense gearing for the pass more and more I really have to take a look at them."

Michigan State, Miami and Ohio State are his early leaders with North Carolina, Nebraska, Florida and Florida State all in the loop.

Ross Pilkington (6-1, 181, 4.5) of Loveland, Colo., is the best wide receiver in the Big 12 area outside of Texas. Pilkington caught 38 passes, at 18 yards per catch and had nine touchdowns a year ago. However, whoever signs him for football will have to worry about the major league draft. Pilkington is projected as a first or second round draft choice. Thus past summer, Pilkington hit .710, and he is a three-time selection at shortstop.

"I have really grown up a Colorado

### Commitments for 2000

Player	Hometown (high school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Ira Cooper	Omaha (Westside), Neb.	6-1 1/2	220	LB
Sandro DeAngelis	Buffalo, N.Y. (St. Joseph Coll.)	5-9	195	FB/K
Mike Erickson	Papillion (Papillion-LaVista), Neb.	6-4	260	OL
Martin Flaum	Denver (Northglenn), Colo.	6-5	290	OL
Steve Kriewald	North Loup Scotia	5-11	250	FB
DeWayne Long Jr.	West Des Moines (Dowling) Iowa	6-1	205	FB
Lorneil McPherson	Omaha (Central), Neb.	5-11	175	DB/WB
Josh Plisch	Rothschild, Wis.	6-4	290	OL
Jason Richenberger	Liberty, Mo.	6-3	210	LB
Chris Septak	Millard (West), Neb.	6-4	235	TE

fan, but they don't have a baseball program," Pilkington said. "If it don't sign a pro contract, I want to play both sports in college. Every school that is recruiting me is telling me that I can play both sports. That is a must. Nebraska and Colorado State have already offered, but Colorado State doesn't have a baseball program. I am also looking at Arizona, Texas and Texas A&M. All three of those schools have great baseball programs as well as football."

Atelo Ford (6-2, 175, 4.5) of Ardmore, Okla., is the best wide receiver prospect in the Sooner State. Ford caught 44 tosses for 650 yards and eight touchdowns a year ago. In the season opener against perennial power Ada, Ford was dominant with five receptions for 96 yards and one 37-yard touchdown.

Already Ford has his choices down to three main schools, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Nebraska, with Kansas and Kansas State working to get into the picture.

"I have enjoyed talking to the Nebraska coaches," Ford said. "I haven't talked to Coach Solich yet, and I am waiting to do that. They have a great program, and I will visit them in the fall."

Ford admits that he is leaning towards OU.

Nebraska always goes out West to find skill position talent, and one of the best is Robert Johnson (5-11, 165, 4.5) of Bakersfield East, Calif. A year ago, Johnson caught 44 passes for 775 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Oregon, UCLA, Washington, Arizona, Minnesota and Nebraska are his top schools early.

"I really don't know a lot about Nebraska, except that they win all the time and are always on television," said Johnson. "They are a great program and are beginning to throw the ball more."

C.J. Joiner (6-2, 175, 4.5) of Orange, Calif., is another solid West Coast receiver. Joiner is considering USC, Oregon, UCLA, Florida and Nebraska.

Sean Bowman (6-2, 190, 4.5) of Phoenix (Christian) is the best wide receiver in Arizona. A year ago, Bowman was dominant catching 57 passes for 1,025 yards and 12 Touchdowns. In the season opener, he caught four passes for 75 yards and two touchdowns.

Bowman's father played college football at Arizona back in the early 1960s, and he's already visited UCLA. However, Nebraska is in the hunt along with San Diego State.

"Nebraska came to our school, and

## Denver Back Among Leaders

In our coverage of running backs in our last issue we failed to mention the talents of Marcus Houston of Denver (Jefferson), who is one of the most interesting recruits in prep football.

Houston is regarded by some as the top running back prospect in the country. He stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 208 pounds and can run the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds. Houston broke onto the prep football scene in Colorado a year ago by rushing for more than 1,700 yards and 25 touchdowns. Every time he touched the football, he averaged more than a first down, with an average of 10.4 yards per carry.

Houston follows in the footsteps of his brother LeVelle, who was regarded as one of the top 100 players in the country as well. LeVelle went on a whirlwind recruiting tour, before finally settling at UCLA, where he now starts in the secondary. During LeVelle's high school days, he worked for the governor's office in Colorado and met the president on two occasions.

This past year, the younger Houston happened to meet the Princess of Ghana in Denver. In July, he was invited to Ghana, where he was a guest of the king, queen and princess. Last summer, he went to Amsterdam, where he spoke on human rights.

So, not only is Nebraska recruiting a great football player, but a potential political leader as well.

"My brother and I have always wanted to be more than just an athlete," Houston said. "He was very active in politics and will be after he quits playing. I am the same way. I am very active in our campus politics here at school, and I try to be a campus leader. I had a great summer that I enjoyed more than I can express. I realize not many young people my age get to experience what I did, and I am grateful. I want to take that experience and make it very positive for me."

There is no question that Houston will take his football experience and make it a positive experience for him. Like his brother before him, he is still considering several schools, and Nebraska is one of them.

"I want to keep all my options open at this time," he said. "I just think that is the best thing for me early. Of course, I will consider UCLA because my brother is there and is so happy playing football for the Bruins, but they are only one school that I am looking at. I want a program that really wants to run the tailback, but I also want a college that will allow me to experience my interest and enjoy a lifestyle that suits me."

At press time, Georgia, Florida State, UCLA, USC, Colorado, Michigan, Texas and Nebraska are the schools he is considering.

Nebraska has also emerged as a front runner for fullback Jermaine Joseph (6-0, 219, 4.6) of Houston (Yates). Joseph has Michigan, Ohio State and Nebraska at the top of his list, with Texas and Oklahoma also in the picture. ■

Coach (Ron) Brown is a very good friend of our coach," Bowman said. "I like what Nebraska is going right now with their offense. I wish they were throwing the ball just a little bit more, but I guess I can't get greedy. They are sending me some film of what they do with their receivers, and that is going to help me with my decision."

In-State, Nebraska already has a commitment from Lornell McPherson of Omaha, Central who is projected as a wingback but could play wide receiver at Nebraska. It's a good bet that by signing day Ryan Mikluseak (6-1, 190, 4.6) of Bellevue West will be

a Cornhusker.

Last season, Mikluseak caught 27 passes for 760 yards and eight touchdowns, and in the season opener, he grabbed seven passes for 134 yards and one TD.

"Ryan has great hands and speed to get the ball," said Bellevue West Coach John Faiman. "Ryan plays baseball as well and is an outstanding athlete. He has been an outstanding player for us for the past couple of years, and he always seems to make big plays for us."

Nebraska, Iowa and Iowa State are Mikluseak's top three choices. ■



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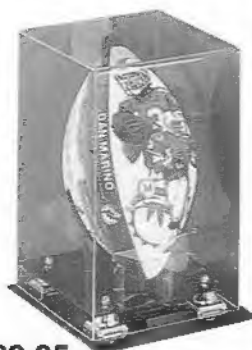
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## Crouch Accepts Role But Still Wants To Start

*Sophomore quarterback makes his own goals secondary to team goals*



**Mike BABCOCK**

TWO WEEKS AFTER he was rumored to be transferring because of his frustration at not being named Nebraska's starting quarterback, Eric Crouch is at ease.

He accepts his role, however it is to be defined.

"I don't expect any changes right now," he said following the Cornhuskers' 45-0 victory against California. "If the coaches were to approach me and Bobby (Newcombe), sit us down and say: We're going to have to

make a change, that's what's best for the team . . ."

Crouch didn't complete the thought. Rather, he went right to the point, like picking out a primary receiver. "Right now, there are probably no changes that need to be made," he said.

Not that he wouldn't like to be the starting quarterback.

"You always want to be the starter," he said.

"But right now I'm playing enough."

From California's point of view, the sophomore from Omaha played too much, rushing for two touchdowns, passing for a touchdown and catching a touchdown pass. That must be some kind of a record, and if it isn't, he did all three in the second quarter, which just about has to be.

His performance also should have drawn at least one "whoa nellie" from broadcast legend Keith Jackson, who was working ABC's telecast of the game, and even if it didn't elicit that respect, it did earn him offensive player of the game honors from ABC for a second consecutive week.

Crouch also scored three touchdowns in a 42-7 victory against Iowa.

Two games. Six touchdowns. A writer in the new press-box high atop Memorial Stadium suggested Crouch could become the first back-up to be a candidate for the Heisman Trophy.

His peace of mind, and the spark he has brought to Nebraska's offense, are evidence of the value of communication. "I think this year our communication between quarterbacks and coaches is (improved) 10-fold compared to last year," he said. "They really want to get things across to us."

"And they want to know how we're feeling about everything."

Last season, that wasn't the case, according to Crouch. "Last year, you really didn't know," he said. "Things are more concrete. And each week, you know what you're doing."

"This year, we're healthy and we know what our roles are."

Apparently, communication also helped Crouch deal with the disappointment of finishing second to Newcombe in competition for the starting job during preseason practice.

"I was pretty down about how much I was going to get to play," said Crouch. "And then when the coaches don't

decide you're the starter, it kind of makes you feel in the back of your head that maybe you're just not good enough to be the starter. You just get that sense and that feeling."

He went home to Omaha to talk with family and friends, a trip that led to the rumors — and caused Coach Frank Solich to pay a visit to his high school, Millard North.

"I talked with a lot of family members. I talked with a lot of close friends, and got a lot of things straightened out about what my role really was," Crouch said.

"I even talked to the coaches a lot about it."

What he needed to hear was: "You're a great football player."

And he did, as well as hearing that he would have an opportunity to play a lot, not only as a quarterback but also as a wide receiver, which he has done in both games.

At no time did he tell Solich he was quitting or transferring, he said.

"That's not the type of person I am," he said during a much-anticipated news conference on the Tuesday before the California game. "I think the situation would have to be, you know, almost life-threatening or very traumatic to give up something that's this important in my life."

Being reminded of that made accepting his role easier.

The best advice he received was probably the simplest. "Things could be worse," he said. "I'm still playing for the Huskers. I'm blessed with ability to throw the ball, run it and catch it."

"I really can't ask for more than that."

Two weeks ago, it might have seemed that things couldn't have been any worse. Despite his hard work during the off-season, he had come up short of his goal, earning the starting job.

"You set goals. You set really high goals," said Crouch. "I feel like my whole life I've been an overachiever, really tried to stress to myself that I've got to be the best. I think that just goes with the type of person I am. I'm hard on myself. And when something like this occurred, it was hard for me."

His personal goals are still high. But he's made them secondary to team goals.

"I just feel like any time I go in a game, it's a chance for me to let this team shine," he said. "It's a chance for me to make a big play and to lead this offense all the way down the field."

"That's my goal every time I go in, for this offense to score, no matter who scores."

Against California more often than not that meant him.

But even if it hadn't been him, he would have been satisfied.

"The fact is, you have to go out and do what you enjoy, do what makes you happy," Crouch said. "If football wasn't making me happy right now, then I'd probably be gone."

"People were telling me, if you're not happy about being a football player, then go do something else. But right now, I'm feeling pretty good about myself." ■



**Eric Crouch has scored six touchdowns.**



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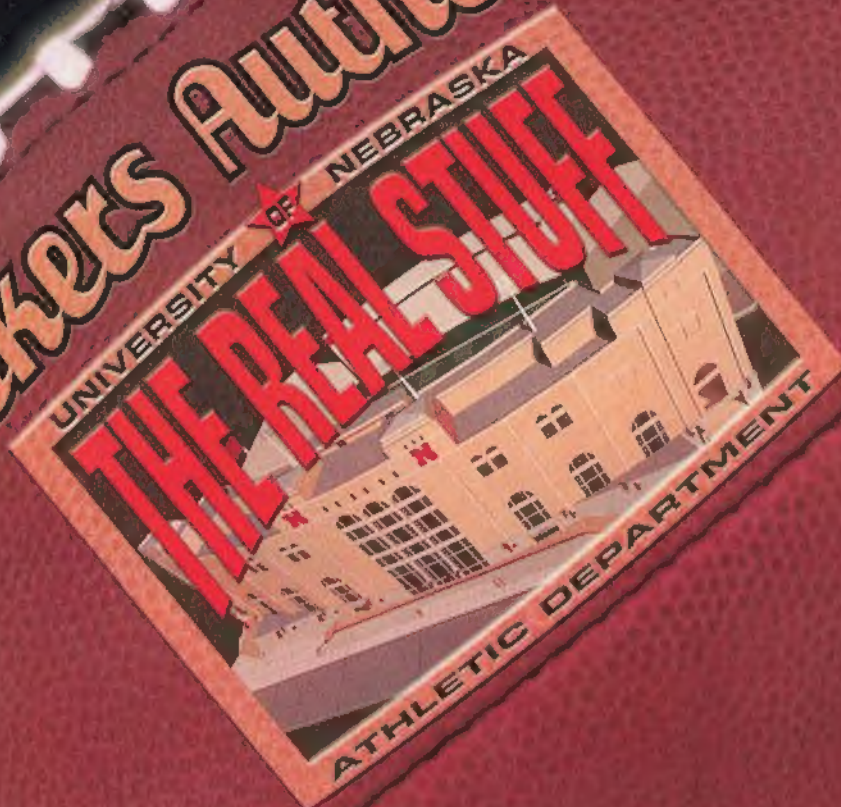
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